

Algeria rules out compromise with FIS

TUNIS (R) — Algeria's head of state, in an interview published on Friday, ruled out any compromise with Muslim fundamentalist opposition and told Western countries critical of his government to mind their own business.

Mohammad Boudiaf, chairman of the presidential council which has cracked down on the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), told the Tunisian newspaper La Presse that the movement had lost touch with the people who voted for it last year.

"The FIS continues and will continue to preach and practise violence. Recently it launched an appeal for a general uprising. Its appeal was not followed. There has been a real break with the Algerian masses with regard to the FIS," he said.

"It has left no chance for reconciliation, absolutely none," he added.

The FIS was poised to win a parliamentary majority in general

elections in January when the military-backed authorities stepped in and cancelled the second round of voting.

The courts have banned the party and thousands of FIS militants and supporters are now in detention camps.

Some Western countries and politicians have criticised the Algerian government for alleged human rights abuses against the fundamentalist movement.

But Mr. Boudiaf rejected any linkage between aid and human rights as "a form of blackmail and colonial behaviour."

"They persist in considering us as immature people who must still be managed... they have their concept of democracy, we have ours," he added.

"Those who are in detention camps today in Algeria are our brothers. We know what we are doing... no one has the right to give us lessons on this subject."

Asked about death sentences by Algerian courts, he said, "It is

we who manage our affairs... that does not concern them..."

Two military courts this month sentenced to death 16 men linked to the FIS for raids on military posts.

Mr. Boudiaf said neither the West nor Arab countries had so far offered to help Algeria with its debt problem, which had caused poverty and helped the FIS to grow.

"As far as the Westerners are concerned, they are reluctant. I am certain that if they have a choice to make they will make it in favour of Eastern Europe," he said.

Mr. Boudiaf said Algeria next year would have to spend some \$10 billion on a debt which remained at \$24 billion although the country paid back \$17 billion two years ago.

He said legislative and presidential elections would be held before the end of 1993 and in the meantime the constitution would

be revised.

"There will be no place for a party which appeals to religion, language or certain values — such as patriotism — which are the common heritage of all Algerians," he said.

Preacher arrested

Algerian security forces have arrested a mosque preacher who faces charges for inflammatory preaching after clashes in which one person was killed, four were wounded and 209 arrested.

The official news agency APS said the preacher was seized on Friday as he prepared to go to the same mosque in Tlemcen, west Algeria, where trouble broke out after prayers the previous Friday.

The gendarmes said the preacher faced charges of calling for civil disobedience and "virulent preaching," APS reported.

Security forces are enforcing a ban on the use of mosques for political sermons.

GCC says it aims for understanding with Iran

KUWAIT (R) — The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said on Saturday that an understanding with non-Arab neighbour Iran was one of its principal aims, but stressed that solving problems without resort to force was a principal condition.

Kuwait said in a speech opening ministerial talks with the European Community (EC) that the GCC sought to achieve "an understanding with our geographic neighbours, especially Iran, on the basis of common interests, principles of good neighbourliness, religious and historic ties."

Troubled relations with Iran are one of the main concerns of the six GCC oil states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

They are worried about Tehran's intentions, especially after an incident two months ago on the disputed island of Abu Musa.

Iranian troops expelled foreign workers who operate UAE oil installations on the island in a move widely seen as an attempt to extend its control over parts of the island controlled by the UAE sheikhdom of Sharjah.

Kuwait's foreign minister, Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, speaking on behalf of the GCC said an understanding with Iran would be sought "to ensure a stable and secure Gulf in view of the importance we attach to the

stability of the area and its vital role in preserving international political and economic interests."

In a separate address, delivered by his deputy at the Kuwaiti foreign ministry, Kuwait said the understanding with Iran must be based on dialogue and mutual respect.

He defined conditions for cooperation with Iran as: "Mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, the territorial integrity of the region's states, respect for their social and political systems, non-interference in internal affairs, refraining from the use of force and settling disputes by peaceful means, respect for international agreements and ensuring the freedom of navigation in the Gulf."

Sheikh Salem referred to Tehran's anger at its exclusion from talks on future security arrangements in the Gulf since the expulsion of Iraq's invading armies from Kuwait last year.

"The GCC states will continue their contacts with Iran to reassure the Iranian side that any security arrangements made by the GCC states were not directed against Iran," he said.

Offering possible financial inducements to Iran, he said the "GCC states are looking forward subsequently towards economic commercial and investment cooperation that would be mutually beneficial for both sides," he added.

Bush: U.S. will keep forces in Gulf region as long as needed

PITTSBURGH (Agencies) — President George Bush said on Friday the United States would maintain an appropriate level of forces in the Gulf region "as long as required by the situation in Iraq."

In a letter to Congress Mr. Bush said Iraq was still resisting full cooperation with the victors in the Gulf war on a number of matters. These included demands for Baghdad to return all property and equipment removed from Kuwait.

Iraq was also resisting attempts by the International Red Cross to gain "unqualified" access to Iraqi detention facilities, said Mr. Bush. Who was visiting Pittsburgh.

"In concert with our coalition partners, we will continue to monitor carefully the treatment of Iraq's citizens, and together we remain prepared to take appropriate steps if the situation requires," Mr. Bush said.

"To this end, we will continue to maintain an appropriate level of forces in the region for as long as required by the situation in Iraq," he said.

The United States has 18,000 troops in the Gulf, a White House spokesman said — 3.3 per cent of U.S. strength at the peak of the conflict over a year ago. Most are in the navy.

Another 1,400 are involved

with operation "Provide Comfort," helping Kurds displaced by fighting in northern Iraq.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the United States opposed the emergence of an independent political entity in northern Iraq.

Referring to a vote due on Sunday to choose an executive leader and members of a legislative body, she said: "We welcome public and private assurances by the Iraqi Kurdish leadership that these elections will deal only with local administrative issues and do not represent a move towards separatism."

The Kurds have been relying for their protection on an air force assembled by the United States and other countries which went to war against Iraq in January 1991.

Iraq has said it will not recognise the results of the election and is continuing a military buildup in the area. Baghdad also has taken measures to restrict the supply of food to that region.

Ms. Tutwiler once again called for the replacement of the "brutal Saddam Hussein regime" with a new government in Baghdad that would fairly represent Iraq's pluralistic society.

"We would like to see all the people of Iraq taking part in a

democratic system and enjoyed the democratic freedoms which have so long been denied to them by Saddam Hussein," she said.

She added that the United States is not sending observers to monitor the elections because of indications of "substantial risk" to American citizens in northern Iraq during the election period.

In a separate statement, Ms. Tutwiler said the State Department's bureau of refugees has pledged \$7.1 million for humanitarian assistance in northern Iraq. The funding is in addition to the \$36 million contributed by the United States in response to a United Nations appeal in January.

The U.N. programme aid the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis who fled their homes when the army put down a Kurdish rebellion in April 1991.

Mr. Bush said the destruction of nuclear weapons, missiles and chemical weapons had begun in Iraq but Iraq had not delivered to the United Nations a promised final dossier regarding its weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq has made partial declarations about weapons it claims to have destroyed, he said. These included 89 extended range Scud missiles and warheads, four Soviet launchers, four Iraqi launchers and test and firing vehicles, 45 chemical warheads and chemical bombs.

Pepsi vs. rabbis

TEL AVIV (AP) — Pepsi-Cola's Israeli distributor says rabbis are objecting to an ad campaign that runs counter to the orthodox Jewish view of creation.

Pepsi's ad plays on the theory of evolution, which orthodox Judaism rejects, believing man is descended from Adam and Eve, not the apes.

Tempo Beer Industries, Ltd., which produces Pepsi in Israel, said Friday that the trouble began when the Orthodox Council objected to a campaign poster showing two apes and the inscription "B.C."

Pepsi is a newcomer to the Coca-Cola-dominated Israeli market. Under the slogan "The choice of the new generation," its ad implies that Pepsi stands at the pinnacle of evolution.

Majid Ruch, Tempo's advertising director, said the Orthodox Council complained that the ad was "unacceptable" and hinted it might withdraw Pepsi's kosher certificate.

Such certificates, declaring an item fit for consumption under Biblical dietary laws, are issued by the state rabbinate. But ultra-orthodox communities, known as Haredim, often shun the product unless their own sages — in this case the Orthodox Council — also approve it.

A rabbi at the council, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he hoped Tempo and Pepsi-Cola "understand and stop damaging the foundations of the faith and provoking the public."

"We asked them to withdraw the campaign. We are not threatening, but if they do not, nobody can force us to continue to support them," the rabbi said.

Ken Johnston, Pepsi-Cola's Israeli manager, issued a statement Thursday saying the campaign was "tested among many groups in Israel and got a positive response."

But the campaign is on hold while Tempo, Pepsi-Cola and the Gitan ad agency seek a solution, Ruch said.

Shaul Yahalom, political secretary of the National Religious Party, said Pepsi-Cola was caught up in a power struggle among eight Haredi communities, each trying to "show how much more extreme they are."

"Evolution is certainly a problematic subject... but there is no connection between this and kosher laws," Mr. Yahalom said on Israel Radio.

Mr. Ruch said Moshe Bornstein, chairman of Tempo's board, has written to the Orthodox Council saying his company is not happy about the campaign.

Mr. Bornstein told Israel army radio Thursday that "anything which is forbidden in the Bible, I won't do."

Theologians oppose euthanasia

JEDDAH (AP) — Contrary to earlier reports, theologians of the Islamic High Academy have not sanctioned euthanasia, an academy spokesman said Saturday.

The spokesman told the Associated Press that "heated debates" at the last minute forced a change by more than 110 theologians who ended a six-day meeting on Thursday.

A drafting committee of 12 scholars had already issued a text to reporters Thursday that said it would not be un-Islamic to discontinue life support systems for terminally ill patients if the patient or family members wished it.

Saturday was the first working day for the academy after the weekend.

The spokesman, who could not be identified under academy rules, said that in final discussions some scholars were fervently for euthanasia while others were totally against it.

The final wording of the conference statement asked Muslims to continue to provide medical care to their terminally ill, he said.

"According to the teachings of Islam, we should not lose hope in the spirit of God nor despair of His providence. We should always have hope in recovery," the final communiqué said.

It said doctors and relatives "should keep up the morale of the sick, continue to provide care for them and alleviate his/her physical and psychological pains even if recovery is not expected."

Interpretations of the scholars are not binding on Muslim nations, but they serve as a reference. For an interpretation to become binding, an Islamic nation would need a fatwa of its chief Muslim legislator.

The High Academy is an affiliate of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference, the umbrella for the world's estimated one billion Muslims.

Lebanon to press for Iran's help on hostages

BEIRUT (R) — A Lebanese envoy said on Friday he was going to Tehran to seek Iran's help in winning the release of two kidnapped German aid workers, the last Western hostages in Lebanon.

Mohsen Dalloul, an ex-agriculture minister who is a member of a government committee working to free Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner, said Lebanon was keen to see them freed.

"We hope to reach a happy end to the problem of the two Germans," he told Reuters.

Mr. Dalloul said he was going to Tehran this weekend to attend a conference of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation but would discuss the hostage problem with Iranian officials.

On Saturday Mr. Struebig, 50, and Mr. Kemptner, 31, start their fourth year as captives of followers of Abdul Hadi Hamadi, chief of security for Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God).

Mr. Hamadi wants to exchange the German hostages for his two

younger brothers, Abbas and Mohammad Ali, jailed in Germany. But Bonn has repeatedly refused to make a deal with the kidnappers.

Mr. Hamadi's demand meant Mr. Struebig and Mr. Kemptner missed out on a United Nations drive last year that resulted in the release of six Americans and three Britons by pre-Iranian kidnappers.

Iran has said it does not have the power to release the two German hostages but is working to influence their captors.

Mr. Dalloul refused to comment on when he expected Mr. Struebig and Mr. Kemptner to be freed. Several Lebanese officials have wrongly forecast publicly this year that their release was imminent.

Political sources said Mr. Dalloul was suggesting the Germans be freed in return for an unwritten pledge from Bonn to release Abbas Hamadi within a year and improve prison conditions for Mohammad Ali Hamadi.

Diplomats said they believed Bonn would reject the proposal.

Malnutrition kills Somalis

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Malnutrition is running rampant in Somalia, killing one out of every 10 people and one-fourth of the children in refugee camps, the relief agency Doctors Without Borders said Friday.

A massive influx of food is needed to save the Somalis and end food shortages that have caused hoarding by clans controlling distribution, two doctors from the agency said.

The agency studied the Merca and Qoroley areas on Somalia's coast about 150 kilometres south of Mogadishu, the capital, from April 18-28. They surveyed families on how many relatives had died in the last year.

Mortality rates in the population of 100,000 exceeded 10 per cent, or 106 out of 1,000 people. Residents reported 497 deaths in the sample of 4,666 people, said Dr. Serge Manoncourt.

Dr. Manoncourt said the actual death rate is probably higher because surveying methods produce conservative results.

In 1989, before the civil war that ousted dictator Mohammad Siad Barre entered its final phase, the death rate was about 20 out of 1,000.

The Belgium-based Doctors Without Borders found that 79 per cent of Somalia's children in its sample were malnourished, and 57 per cent are severely malnourished.

Among homeless children in refugee camps, 90 per cent were malnourished and 75 per cent were severely malnourished. Children living at home only slightly better off: 68 per cent

malnourished, 43 per cent severely

ly so.

A survey of the diet of people in the refugee camps found that 22 per cent had eaten nothing for 24 hours, and 47 per cent ate only "garass," a wild fruit with little nutritional value that is not normally eaten in Somalia.

Relief officials said armed bandits are taking cuts in food shipments in exchange for not hijacking it outright, and clan-based neighbourhood committees distribute the rest.

The clan and tribal leaders feed their own first, as a way of reinforcing their authority. The rest goes to the refugees, but little is left to spare.

Fighting between factions backing two clan chiefs in Mogadishu has killed or wounded more than 30,000 people around Mogadishu since Nov. 17.

Relief agencies had been trying to get food in since the start of the fighting. A ceasefire signed on March 3 was followed by weeks of negotiations over how the food should be distributed.

The United Nations docked a ship carrying 5,000 tonnes of wheat on May 3. The International Committee of the Red Cross landed nearly 12,000 tonnes of food on beaches north and south of the capital last week.

The Red Cross plans to send another 7,000 tonnes of food soon.

The Red Cross, hampered by cause many inland ports are having trouble getting food outlying areas.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Pioneer of Palestinian women dies

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Zelikha Al Shihabi, the founder of the first Palestinian women's movement, died in Jerusalem of natural causes on Wednesday. She was 90. Ms. Shihabi devoted more than 60 years to public activity. In 1929, she founded the Arab Ladies Committee and six years later the Arab Women's Union. She was a founding member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in 1964. "She was a symbol and a pioneer of the Palestinian women's movement in Palestine," said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks. "Zelikha devoted her life to promoting equality for women, offered a great deal to social welfare and fought for her country like any man," said Salma Al Hussein, an acquaintance of Ms. Shihabi. She was among the first Palestinians Israel expelled in 1968, a year after its occupation of the West Bank. Under pressure from the United Nations, the Jewish state allowed her to return several months later. Ms. Shihabi presided the Arab Women's Union from 1936 to 1989 when she fell ill.

Iranians ask acquittal on Malay drug charge

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Three Iranians on trial for their life in Malaysia for alleged drug peddling are seeking acquittal on grounds that there were doubts over the evidence, their lawyer said Saturday. Karpal Singh told a high court in Kuala Lumpur that the prosecution had failed to establish whether the seized drug was heroin or morphine. "There is also doubt as to why an investigating police officer, who framed the charge, named the substance heroin but later changed it to morphine," he told Judge Mokhtar Abdullah. On trial are traders Mehran alias Mepan Mahmud, 29, Sahrab Naiman, 30, and Mohammad Sharif Karimpour, 31. They are charged with trafficking in 105.22 grammes of morphine at a cinema last July. Under Malaysia's tough drug laws capital punishment is automatic for anyone caught with more than 15 grammes of heroin or morphine or 200 grammes of cannabis.

Ethiopia puts back regional elections

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia said on Friday it had put back regional elections originally set for June 6 by 15 days due to security and technical problems. The state-run Ethiopia News Agency said the transitional government set June 21 as the new polls date in 14 newly-created regions on the request of country's electoral commission. Federal-state governments will be established following the elections. Political analysts see the polls as one of the only ways to satisfy regional and ethnic demands and prevent a return to decades of civil war in the Horn of Africa nation. Ethiopia wants foreign aid of \$8.5 million for the polls.

Ethiopian Christians before 'massacre'

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopian Christians have accused Muslims of killing 20 monks and other Christians at a monastery in the eastern province of Hararge and appealed to the transitional government for protection. The Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said the Christians had complained that members of the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromo (IFLO) had rounded the people up at Asbet Debre-Wagge monastery and shot them dead. The agency quoted four people who escaped the massacre as saying the incident occurred on May 1. Forces of the ruling Ethiopia Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front recovered the remains of eight in the Arero precipice area but there was no trace of the others, it said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Michael Vaillant
17:45 Des Chiffres et Des Lettres
18:15 L'École des Rues
19:00 News France
19:15 Carnet de Notes
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Wings
21:10 The World Audition
22:00 News in English
22:20 Law and Order

PRAYER TIMES

04:06 Fajr
05:35 Sunrise (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:32 Dhuhr
16:12 Asr
19:29 Maghreb
20:57 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swiss Tel. 817040
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 642590
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

TERRESTRIAL CHURCHES

Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772061
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 648326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811205
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively cold, partly cloudy to cloudy and rainy at times. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy and dusty with northerly moderate to fresh winds and choppy sea.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 10/20
Aqaba 17/28
Deserts 9/23
Jordan Valley 15/27

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyem 620115
Dr. Mohammad Al Nabawi 679225
Dr. Mohammad Mannaa 741444
Dr. Basim Al Qadouni 646024
Firas pharmacy 661912
Firdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoch pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660
IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Baker 661111
Al Shura pharmacy 275825

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Emergency 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Police Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 121
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/3
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 64422
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn 64441/2
Jahd Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 644171/4
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843405
Al-Hussein Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Amman 666177/77
Al-Ahli, Amman 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir 777101/3

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (06)5300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

16:00 Jeddah (RJ)
16:30 Amman (RJ)
16:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
17:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)
18:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30 Paris, Geneva (RJ)
19:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
20:20 London, Brussels (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:35 Cairo (MS)
16:40 Moscow (SU)
16:55 Larnaca (CY)
20:35 Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Amman (RJ)
11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
14:00 Jeddah (RJ)
14:00 Damascus (RJ)
14:00 Riyadh (RJ)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
15:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
15:00 Bangkok (RJ)
15:45 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:00 Rome (AZ)
11:25 Cairo (MS)
16:00 Moscow (SU)
17:45 Larnaca (CY)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg of bakeries
Apples (red) 700/800
Bananas 500/450
Bananas (Mukammal) 550/500
Beans 350/250
Cabbages 100/100
Carrots 100/100
C



RANGE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP — A workshop on range management was inaugurated by Undersecretary of State Engineer Abu Orabi from the Ministry of Agriculture on May 16 at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman. The workshop, which is organised by the Forestry Department and the Forestry Project of the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), will last through May 21, 1992. This range management workshop starts a series of workshops and training courses which concentrate on the management of natural resources. The aim of this particular workshop is to ensure that already existing Jordanian know-how is made available to engineers and technicians who are dealing on a day-to-day basis with the management of range resources. Valuable field experience and research results will be presented through different scientists, within lectures, and field days. The range management experience in Dhualeh, Surra, Khanasari and Ma'een will certainly contribute to decide which range management technique could be best introduced in which part of the country. To verify how successful the information has been perceived by the participants, an exam is carried out at the end of the workshop.

JCFC to flood markets with cement to prevent further price manipulation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) Saturday announced that it was flooding the local markets with additional quantities of cement stock in order to prevent further manipulations of the prices, and it accused certain merchants, without naming them, of being behind the crisis of cement shortages on markets. The company board chairman, Dr. Bassam Al Saket, said that speculations have caused the price of a tonne of Jordanian cement to reach JD 55, but the company was still selling at the rate of JD 39 a tonne. "The company is ready to supply any citizen with various amounts of cement not less than 10 tonnes for every consignment at the official JD 39 a tonne price, and it has adopted a plan to flood the local markets with at least 10,000 tonnes of cement a day in order to thwart the evil intentions of profiteers," said Dr. Saket. "He added that certain merchants were storing the cement hoping to sell it for a higher price, thus 'illegally exploiting the market'."

Regrettably, the company had to halt certain cement exports to meet the local demand and to prevent profiteering, noted Dr. Saket in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. "Apart from the profiteers who are mainly to blame for the cement crisis, the crisis cropped up as a result of the delay in construction operations over the past months due to the severe winter season in Jordan and the sudden rush for building materials in the spring," Dr. Saket said. He also attributed the rise in demand of cement to unusual levels to the increasing investment in real estate and construction which followed the return of expatriates. The present demand for cement is 100 per cent more than the 1991 levels, Dr. Saket added. The company board chairman said that he hoped legal action would be taken against those illegal dealers and profiteers. Referring to production and exports, Dr. Saket said that additional efforts on the part of the company resulted in opening new markets for Jordanian cement in Asian nations, raising the company's export capacity last year to 1.4 million tonnes and earning \$3.56 million. According to Dr. Saket, the company sold to the Jordanian markets a total of 190,000 tonnes last month, up from 87,000 in the same month of 1991 and has sold 96,000 tonnes of cement in the first 13 days of this month, up from 51,000 tonnes in the same period of May 1991.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday meets with Russian Patriarch Alexis II of Moscow at the Royal Court

Russian patriarch, Regent discuss religion, politics

AMMAN (Petra) — Patriarch Alexis II of Moscow and all Russia said Saturday that everything should be done to preserve the holy places of Jerusalem, noting that the shrinking of the Christian and Islamic communities occurring in the city would "result in a dangerous situation, with the holy shrines transformed into mere museums."

The patriarch, who started a several-day visit to Jordan Friday, said that the Palestinian refugees should be granted the right of return to their homeland. He expressed hope that the ongoing peace process would lead to a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The patriarch who was speaking to an audience with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said that the three monotheistic religions could be made to contribute to a solution of ethnic conflicts, noting that religious people around the world can play a leading role in helping to bring about a just and lasting settlement to the Middle East question. The Regent said that respect of human rights and basic freedoms including free expression of thought, political views and the exercise of faith and religious beliefs are considered essential for civilisation. "The mass migration of population should not take place at the expense of basic human and political rights of the indigenous residents although such migration could be for humanitarian reasons," the Regent said at the meeting held at the Royal Court. Only if based on mutual respect can a new order for the Middle East survive, said Prince Hassan. He expressed hope that cooperation among various governments would lead to full commitment to and respect of sublime principles within the international framework. The Regent's economic advisor, Ahmad Mango, presented an outline on the adverse effects of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the whole region and the pressure caused by the migration of refugees and the displaced people on Jordan's water resources, energy, natural resources and the national economy. Dr. Victor Billeh, head of the National Centre for the Educational Research and Development, outlined the negative effects on the Kingdom caused by the expatriates returning to Jordan from the Gulf. He pointed out in particular, the problems of unemployment. Later the patriarch and his accompanying delegation visited the tomb of the late King Talal and the late King Abdullah where they laid wreaths. The Russian patriarch was received by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouan Al Hindawi, with whom he discussed the situation in the occupied Arab lands and the conditions of the Islamic and Christian holy places there. The patriarch underlined the importance of the Islamic-Christian dialogue and mutual cooperation for the future and for enhancing the rules of justice and peace in the region. He condemned Israel's repeated attempts to reduce the volume of Christian and Islamic communities in the occupied lands, in general, and in the Holy City of Jerusalem, in particular. The patriarch "called for immediate action on the part of the world community to halt Israel's plans and to safeguard the religious heritage in the holy land." From what he saw in Jordan, the patriarch reaffirmed his belief of the strong ties of coexistence between the followers of Christianity and Islam. He said such co-existence sets an excellent example to be followed everywhere. Several cabinet members and the Russian ambassador to Jordan were present at the meeting.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Islamic league denies reports

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic World League Saturday denied that any league official is currently visiting Israel. A statement issued by the league's office in Amman denied news reports saying that a religious affairs advisor to the league, Ishaq Idris Sahouta, is on a week-long visit to Israel. The statement said Mr. Sahouta is not linked to the Mecca-based league in any direct or indirect manner. The statement said that Secretary-General of the league Abdullah Omar Nasif expressed his dismay "for publishing such 'rumours' about the Islamic World League, because these rumours do not conform with the goals and message of the league."

Rains, drop in temperature expected

AMMAN (Petra) — More rains are expected in the Kingdom as a cold front is moving towards Jordan from northern Turkey, according to Secretary-General of the Meteorology Department Ali 'Abanda. Mr. 'Abanda said that this front will cause the formation of a depression near Cyprus and that the depression will affect Jordan as of today. He said it will become cloudy and rain will fall, heavily at times, and will be accompanied by hail and thunder. Temperatures will drop and will be well below the annual average for this time of the year, he added. Mr. 'Abanda said the rainy and relatively cold weather will continue through Monday. He also said that country was affected since Friday evening by unstable weather conditions which caused showery rains and hail to fall in the northern and central parts of Jordan.

Minister returns from Beirut

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister A. Subeimat Saturday returned home from Beirut after taking part in a Lebanese national conference on transport. Mr. Subeimat said in a statement after his arrival in Amman that he had a meeting with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi and the speaker of the Lebanese Lower House of Parliament. He said the three-day conference, in which Arab experts took part, discussed land, sea and air transport and their role in supporting the national economy. He said participants in the meeting called for establishing an Arab transport organisation to enhance the trade exchange and facilitate the travel of passengers between Arab countries.

Director, ambassador discuss agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Salem Al Lawzi met Saturday with the Lebanese ambassador to Jordan and discussed with him scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Lebanon in agricultural fields. Dr. Lawzi also met with exporters of fruits and vegetables to European markets. The meeting reviewed problems facing them and discussed the prospect of establishing a committee which could organise their work and address their needs and demands.

Jordanian delegation meets Romanian premier

BUCHAREST (Petra) — A Jordanian Parliamentary delegation, which is currently visiting Romania, met Saturday with Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman. The delegation discussed with the Romanian premier issues of common interest and ways to enhance bilateral relations. In another development, the delegation met with members of the Jordanian community in Romania and reviewed with them their conditions.

Jordan takes part in phosphate meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMCO) has participated in the meetings of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly of the International Institute of Phosphates held in Paris recently. JPMCO Director General Thabet Al Taher who represented the company at the meetings said that these meetings discussed international projects financed by an international phosphates club and the prospect of increasing agricultural research in third world countries to increase their consumption of fertilisers.

Two bakeries closed for health reasons

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Safety Committee in Zarqa Governorate decided Saturday to close down two bakeries for using used oil as fuel. The committee also decided to close down several poultry meat stores for not abiding by health conditions. Zarqa Deputy Governor and Chairman of the committee Ghaleb Iznigra said his committee will do its utmost to ensure that owners of groceries and stores abide by public safety and health conditions set by the governorate.

Tawjihi students start practical exams

AMMAN (Petra) — Tawjihi students in the vocational stream of the secondary educational stage started Saturday their practical examinations at their schools. The director of the Vocational Training Department at the ministry said that the examinations will continue for four days for all branches of the vocational stream, except for the agricultural education branch. The practical examinations in this branch will end May 24 because of the increase in the number of students joining it, he said.

Seminar on basic education stresses importance of eradicating illiteracy

AMMAN (Petra) — A senior Ministry of Education official Saturday said that illiteracy is being eradicated in Jordan at the rate of one per cent annually and that it now stands at 18 per cent. Suad Farkouh, director of technical education, said that Jordan has achieved high rates of literacy, noting that the rate of children enrolled in schools, community colleges and universities was among the highest in the world. Addressing the opening session of a regional training seminar on basic education, Mrs. Farkouh said that the past few years witnessed an increase in the number of adult and illiterate people, especially women, seeking basic education at the literacy and adult education centres in the Kingdom. The 10-day seminar, organised by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), is being attended by delegates from various Arab states and the participants will review working papers dealing with basic education in the Arab world, educational criteria, the production of educational aids, literacy, the role of the media, particularly television and video in eradicating illiteracy, and the evaluation of educational television programmes, among other topics. Addressing the opening session of the seminar entitled "production of educational programmes for television to promote basic education and eradicate illiteracy in the Arab world," Ministry of Education Secretary-General Munther Al Masri outlined the Jordanian experiment in spreading education through television and the regular school education, as well as literacy centres. Dr. Abdul Qader Atrash, director of the UNESCO regional office in the Arab world, addressed the opening meeting by underlining the importance of providing basic education to children. He called for a revision of basic education systems with a view to modernise them and promote their techniques and methods to cope with the needs of modern societies.

Passport renewal available at post office

AMMAN (J.T.) — Residents of the Amman region can from now on renew their passports through the Central Post Office station in the capital and the passports will be ready and handed over to their owners in three days, according to an announcement Saturday by the Civil Status and Passports Department. During the summer time, the passports department is normally congested with applications for renewal of passports by students finishing school and wishing to travel abroad or citizens travelling to the West Bank. According to Mr. Muhieddin, the passport owner should personally call at the post office to submit the application in order to ensure that all required documents have been presented. He said that officials at the post office required to handle papers related to passports are there from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Renewing passports, through the post office is being applied as a trial practice for first time in Jordan and should it prove successful, Mr. Muhieddin said, the idea will be applied to all other areas of the country to ease the pressure on the main passport offices and save time and effort for the Jordanian citizens.

CBJ defines cash margin

AMMAN (Petra) — A memorandum circulated by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to all banks and financial institutions Saturday defined the cash margin used as guarantees against imports to the Kingdom. The CBJ memorandum said that in dealing with imports to the free zones in Jordan or for transit purposes, banks and financial firms can make exact charges at the rate of 15 per cent in guarantees on imports of food supplies, primary goods and spare parts and 30 per cent on all other commodities. According to the circular, the order was applied on May 14, 1992.

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PRESIDENT OPENS EXHIBITION — University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh Saturday opened the annual exhibition of the Arab and Foreign Students Club of the university. The exhibition, which is held as part of the activities of the club's cultural week, includes folkloric items, traditional handicrafts and posters depicting life in various countries of the world. The activities of the cultural week will include screening several documentary films on several countries. The number of Arab and foreign students at the university stands at 1,767 from 50 countries.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Hazem Al Bustani at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Abu Zreiq at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by five Malaysian artists at the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Luhwibdeh.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Rida Hus Hus at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bofis and Munira Al Tunisiyya at the Orthodox Club.
- ★ Photography exhibition entitled "Double Vision of Jordan" by Bernard Guillot and Jean-Philippe Reverdot at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

- ★ British film entitled "Henry V" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

Arab Scientific Council holds medical meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Scientific Council in charge of specialising in gynecology and obstetrics opened a two-day meeting in Amman Saturday to discuss a number of topics related to the profession and requests to issue new certificates. Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh, who opened the sessions, stressed that the Arab Higher Council for Medical Specialisations, which set up the branch council on gynecology and obstetrics, has offered good services to the Arab World by organising specialists' practices through recognising their diplomas and degrees. In Jordan, any specialist holding a certificate from the Higher Council is fully recognised to practice as a specialist in the Kingdom, the minister noted. According to Dr. Mufid Juhanad, the Higher Council's secretary-general, the council is organising training for 3,200 specialists in 92 hospitals around the Arab World. Many of those who graduated after training at the hospital and received a council's award included those specialists in gynecology and obstetrics, among many other specialisations, he said. Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Ishaq Marqa lauded the work of the Higher Council as a means for promoting specialists' work. He said that the Higher Council has been instrumental in promoting health and medical services in the Arab World.

Minister inspects damages to sports centre

IRBID (J.T.) — Minister of Youth Saleh Irshaidat Saturday paid an inspection visit to the Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid and was shown the various installations that sustained damages by spectators during a soccer match between Ramtha and Faisali teams. After expressing regret over the unfortunate incidents, the minister announced that the stadium will be repaired immediately. "The installations at the Al Hassan Sports City belong to the whole nation and the local residents as well as the spectators ought to take measures to protect them," the minister said. He said that proper measures will be taken to prevent a recurrence of such incidents and that those responsible will be duly punished. The minister announced that an investigation committee has been formed to look into the incidents and propose measures to prevent a recurrence of such violence. The violence occurred when the Al Faisali team scored its second goal against Al Ramtha, the host team. Eyewitnesses said that spectators started throwing stones at the Faisali players, which prompted the referee to stop the match. The police, who were called to restore order, used tear gas to disperse the mobs who later turned their attention to the stadium installations, causing a lot of damages, eyewitnesses added. They said that bus owned by the Al Faisali team was damaged while the players were escorted out of the stadium under the police protection.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

How industry responded to adjustment

By Dr. Fahd Al Fanek

There is no doubt that the industrial sector can live and prosper under the economic adjustment programme, but it will definitely feel the pinch of the programme and its policies, perhaps more than any other productive sector. As usual under the impact of a new far-reaching correction programme, things may worsen before they start to improve.

The impact of the programme on the industrial sector is both favourable and unfavourable, but naturally the unfavourable consequences come first. The bitterness of the medicine is felt immediately while the improvement in the patient's conditions would follow gradually later on.

The consumption tax is a prominent example. In this respect, one has to take into account that the Jordanian industry was always overprotected, with very high customs duty and tax exemptions for new projects, in accordance with the encouragement of the investments law which is comprehensive and long-term. Therefore, any radical reform of the Jordanian economy is expected to reduce the exaggerated privileges of industry. This should not be a surprise. The Jordanian industry is no more an infant activity; it is high time to be more self-dependent.

It is not a coincidence that the first measure taken under the programme was the reduction of industry's customs protection to 50 per cent. Any extra charge beyond 50 per cent would be imposed equally on both commodities, whether locally produced or imported.

This step, which was taken on November 5, 1991, was obviously at the expense of the national industry, but it was unavoidable in order to urge the managers in industry to reduce cost and enhance efficiency and consequently be competitive. Without this bitter medicine, the Jordanian industry would continue to relax and depend solely on the small domestic market where it may make money, but only at the expense of the Jordanian consumer, and remain unable to enter export markets.

Among the other steps taken, which affected industry, was the recent hiking of fuel prices, especially diesel and heavy fuel used by the industry, which raised the cost of production. Industry however, could not object to this reform because it does not have

a lasting right to depend on subsidised fuel; otherwise its profits would not mean more than a transfer of funds from the treasury through subsidy.

It is worth mentioning, in this respect, that the use by industry of subsidised fuel led to strange consequences. For example, it was established that Jordanian exports of cement in recent years were executed at prices that were not sufficient to cover the real cost of fuel used in the production of the cement. In other words, Jordan was losing more hard currency by exporting more cement. The Jordan Cement Factories Company was making artificial profits at the expense of the treasury, due to the distortion resulting from fuel subsidies.

Industries used to enjoy monopoly under the pretext that it was a waste of resources to allow multiple factories producing the same commodity. The door is now wide open for entering the market. Only efficiency can protect a producer from competitors. Therefore, industrial companies were compelled to revise their operational economics and do all that could be done to reduce cost and improve quality.

The government is about to get ready administratively and legally for the implementation of a unified sales tax, a form of value-added tax, as of the beginning of 1993 to replace consumption tax. This new tax was recommended for revenue, efficiency and neutrality. Since it is extremely difficult to enforce the collection of the tax at the point of sale as is the case in advanced countries, it, most likely, will be collected at source; i.e., from the factory. Such a tax will of course reduce the public's demand and give an incentive to the Jordanian industry to look for export markets, because exports are exempted from sales tax.

Those are prominent examples of the disadvantages that are accruing to industry as a direct result of the implementation of the economic adjustment programme. However, the implementation of the programme will carry advantages to industry which, in the long run may outweigh the costs.

The first advantage that comes to mind is the reduction of governmental intervention in production, pricing and markets. Governmental intervention was always at the top of the list of troubles facing industry and businessmen in the private sector. It

was poisoning the investment climate in the country. The liberalisation of the economy has already started since mid 1988 and will continue and gain momentum under the programme, to become irreversible. The public sector will withdraw gradually from unfair competition with the private sector. The government will set the rules of the game and enforce them as a regulatory authority, but it will not, itself, be a player in industry, trade and other services.

Perhaps the most important service to industry that the programme will provide is to insure a healthy economic climate. Industry cannot grow and prosper in a crisis economy, with possible shortages of foreign exchange, or in an economy suffering from weaknesses, deficits, imbalances and instability.

If the programme worked, and I am sure it will, Jordan will have a sound and healthy economy. It will grow positively not retreat, its markets will be larger, its debts will be manageable and it will enjoy legal and regulatory stability with no more surprise with each new official coming to power.

These are some of the advantages and disadvantages which will accrue to the industrial sector while the economic adjustment programme is underway. Some industries will benefit and take advantage of the better competitive climate, other industries will suffer and perhaps fail to survive because they will not be able to stand competition or live without direct or indirect subsidies. The fact that a particular industry will benefit and another will be hurt depends on the efficiency of its management and its capacity to read the changing circumstances and employ them in its favour, instead of just complaining.

Short sighted industrialists care only about short term results and will accordingly oppose the economic adjustment programme and accomplish nothing but failures. Those with long-term vision care about the real longer term interests of their industry and will support the programme, knowing what is the alternative. In all cases, it is in the best interest of the Jordanian industry to take the programme seriously and not to waste time in objecting or supporting a programme already adopted and backed at the highest level. They are well advised to try their best to minimise their costs and maximise their benefits under the programme.

Whose business is it, then?

THE OTTAWA multilateral conference on the subject of refugees ended on a sour note Friday when the U.S. and Canada succeeded in shifting the issue of Palestinian refugees to the bilateral peace talks between Israel and the Arab side. The conferees also succumbed to Western pressure by deleting from the final communiqué the expected reaffirmation of the Palestinians' right to return to their homes or accept adequate compensation. On both counts, the arguments submitted against the Palestinian and other Arab delegates demand that the Ottawa meeting be seized as well with the Palestinians' right to return on the premise that the issue is essentially a political one and falls only within the purview of the Arab-Israeli bilateral peace negotiations.

By way of reminder, U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948, which the U.S., Britain and even Canada had supported, was basically an international effort that regarded the exodus of Palestinian refugees from their homeland as a thorny matter that falls within the mandate and concern of the international community and not only the business of Israel and the immediate Arab parties to the question. If it was the business of the United Nations in 1948 to take up the political-humanitarian subject of the Palestinian refugees who fled their country in the 1947-48 war, how can the U.S. and Canada now maintain that the same subject is of no concern to the international community, but must be negotiated between the immediate parties as if Resolution 194 and all the other follow up General Assembly and even U.N. Security Council resolutions on the same very subject do not exist?

In fact the Palestinian right of return should be on the agenda of both the bilateral peace parleys and the relevant multilateral talks. Obviously the issue has at least two dimensions: One political and the other technical, not to mention its complementary humanitarian and economic aspects that need to be addressed at the appropriate fora. Indeed, the final communiqué of the Ottawa gathering did confirm the need for an international effort to alleviate the economic, social and humanitarian sufferings of the Palestinian refugees, especially those still living in squalid camps spread throughout the region.

Equally important to remember is the right of the Arab countries where most of these camps are situated to voice their concern about and interest in the framework of the final resolution of the Palestinian refugee question. This is an added reason why the Palestinian right of return needs to be aired out in both the bilateral as well as the multilateral peace talks and not be confined to the relevant bilateral negotiations alone. Against this backdrop, the just ended Ottawa multilateral forum came nowhere near success, especially when one adds the negative point of Israel's and Syria's and Lebanon's boycott of the meeting. So, taken together, the total picture that emerges is one that does not augur well for the entire exercise. Therefore, instead of scheduling one additional meeting by the end of the year, the participants should have aimed for two or three other much longer meetings for the remaining part of the year in order to reaffirm the seriousness with which the subject should be taken by the world.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday expressed delight over France's announcement that it supports U.N. Security Council Resolution 194 of 1948 which provides for the Palestinian people's right of return to their homeland. This decision by Paris, which followed a similar one by Washington, has aroused Israel's anger because its government does not wish to withdraw its troops from any part of the occupied Arab lands of Palestine, said the paper. But, of course, the French and the American declared positions would remain meaningless unless they were coupled with practical steps to ensure the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homes and their lands, said the paper. What the Palestinians want is the implementation of Resolution 194 and of the other Security Council resolutions concerning the Palestinian question; they realise that France and the United States hold the power to force Israel to comply with those resolutions and the requirements of peace, the paper said. No one can doubt that the United States and France have sufficient leverage to pressure Israel into implementing the resolutions of the world community; and no one denies the influence both countries have over the Jewish state and its future plans regarding the settlements and the withdrawal of troops from occupied lands, the paper continued. Israel, the paper said, can by no means go on ignoring these resolutions and that is why its leaders were angered by the French and American statements in this regard. The paper also said that the French and American statements were clear signals for the Israelis, but it remains to be seen whether the declared positions would be translated into practice to give impetus to the ongoing peace process.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour Saturday attacked the Western countries in general and the United States and Britain in particular over their attitude with regard to Libya. Despite Libya's clear statement that it is renouncing terrorism and accepting U.N. Security Council Resolution 731 in that respect, London and Washington are not satisfied and they demand concrete evidence proving Libya's position and a total implementation of Resolution 731; this means total subjugation to the will of the United States and the Western nations, said Munes Al Razzaz. The writer said that the Western nations want the Libyans to raise the white flag on the roofs of all factories, homes and schools, showing that they are capitulating to the will of the colonial powers. He said that the dispute with Libya is not over the Lockerbie affairs, as it might seem from the news, but rather over subduing the Libyan leadership and people to the will of the Western countries in a manner similar to that imposed on the Gulf states. The Western nations want to offer a service to themselves by ensuring cheap oil and to serve Israel's purposes by ensuring a weak Arab World, said the writer. But, he said, the U.S.-led alliance against the Arabs can never succeed as long as there are Arab people determined to thwart Western conspiracies.

The following article is based on Paul Harrison's book, "The Third Revolution." It is extracted from the first issue of "People and the Planet," a magazine published by International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in association with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

The world has entered a phase of environmental crisis which is mounting in scale and gravity. In the 1970s we worried about spreading deserts, shrinking forests and fuelwood shortages. In the 1980s the list grew longer: red tides of toxic algae, acid rain, the ozone hole, and threats of nuclear accidents and global warming.

All this came upon us in the brief space of no more than three decades. These same three decades saw human populations soar from 3 billion in 1960 to 5.5 billion today. At the same time the consumer revolution gathered pace and spread from America to Europe and Japan, then to the rest of East Asia and to a growing middle class in other developing countries.

The conjunction of these three things is no coincidence: for the environmental crisis is the outcome of the population and consumption explosion. Technology is crucial too, for we are still using too many resources, and emitting too much pollution, for each unit we consume. The next two decades will see population and consumption increasing faster than ever before in history. And technology is not changing anywhere near fast enough to compensate. The global environmental crisis is only just beginning.

We may face resource shortages in a few decades' time. But this will not so much be the result of what we use as of what we waste. Not just what we throw away or pump out in gas or liquid

form, but what we squander in fertile soil, trees and species wiped out.

In the modern trading economy, a pollution crisis is much harder to deal with than a resource crisis. When resources run short, prices rise, and we economise, or shift to substitutes. But pollution is what individuals and companies do to people other than themselves, or to common property like forests, oceans or the atmosphere. That impact does not usually show up in prices. It only shows when people suffer and protest.

Only the political and legal system can deal with these external impacts. The problem is that our institutions are not adapted to deal with them, especially at international level — where many of the problems of air and water pollution show up.

Our track record on dealing with environmental problems is poor. Generally they have to reach crisis proportions before we respond. Whales were hunted close to extinction before whaling was banned. CFCs had to tear a massive hole in the ozone layer before their phase-out was planned.

Can we learn to prevent disaster, before our hand is forced? The task of adaptation that lies ahead is enormous, both in scale and in the speed required. We will have to act decisively on the three factors of direct influence: population, consumption and technology. And we must work, too, on everything that affects

them, from free markets and democracy to poverty and inequality within and between nations.

Consumption is the least tractable of the three. The world's 1.1 billion poor will have to increase

their consumption to escape poverty. The middle 3 billion aspire to improve their lot further. The richest billion will not be easily induced to cut back the living standards they have grown used to. The best hope is that a

global change in values will lead the affluent people to cut their consumption voluntarily — or to shift to less damaging forms of consumption.

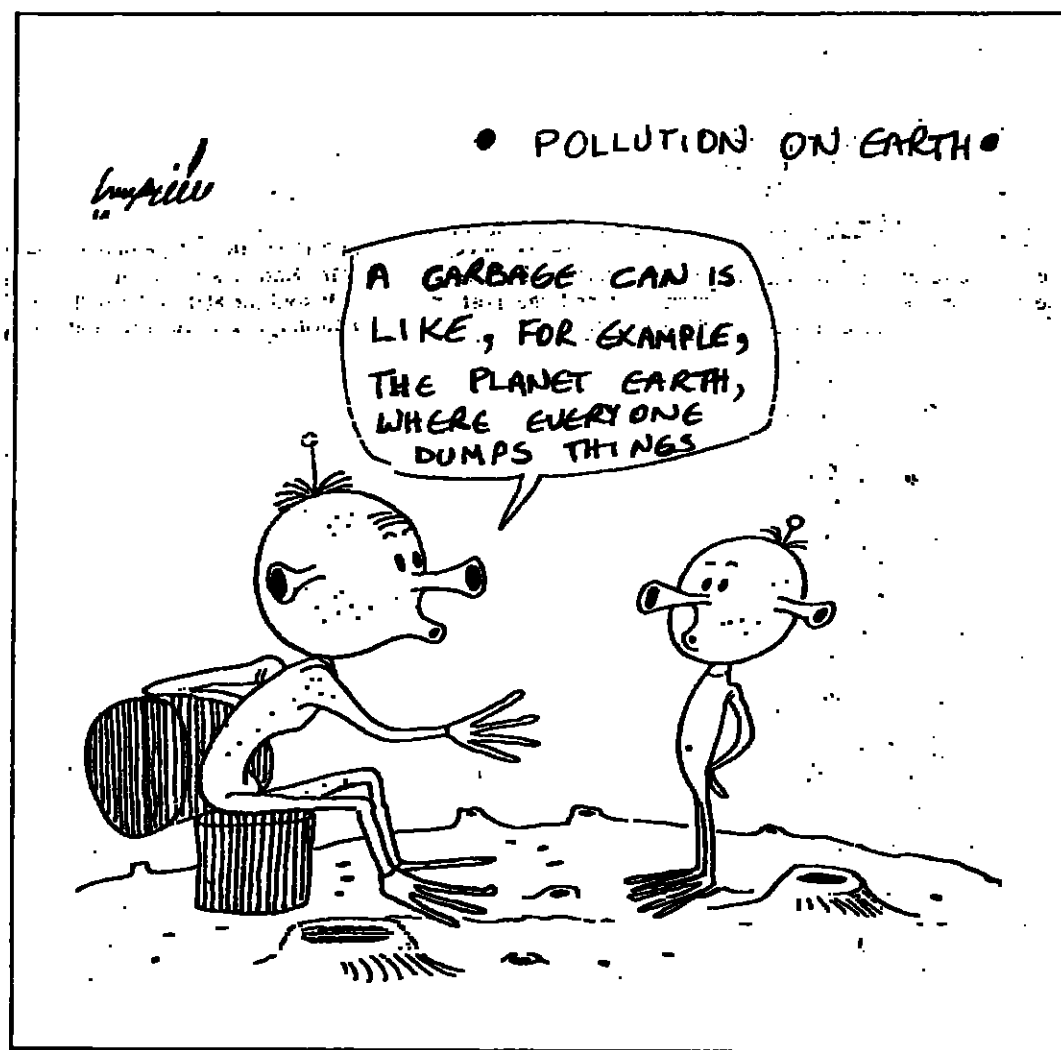
We will have to change to sustainable technologies, and sus-

tainable ways of managing natural resources. But we cannot rely on technology alone. If consumption levels and population both double, which is quite possible, then technology would have to make massive advances just to keep damage levels constant, let alone improve them.

Of the three direct agents, the population factor is the most promising field of action. But though the situation is urgent, we must not be panicked into measures of "population control" or coercion. If we are really serious about bringing population growth rates down fast, we have to look hard at the lessons of those countries that have succeeded in doing so — countries like Thailand, where the number of children each woman is likely to bear had fallen to 2.3 by 1987, down from 6.1 in 1965-70.

It appears that four factors have been crucial: a high level of female education and literacy; a decent status for women, including rights to control and inherit property and to work outside the home for equal pay; a priority for mother and child health care, to bring down levels of infant mortality; and easy access to a wide and free choice of family planning methods, with good counselling and medical back-up.

Any one of these measures is valuable in itself. Taken together they can work miracles. And the beauty of it is that all these measures are desirable in their own right. Indeed World Bank research has found that educating women produces one of the highest rates of economic benefit of any type of investment. Helping women and children turns out to be one of the best ways to help save the world.



U.S.-French relations turn tetchy

By Paul Taylor
 Reuters

PARIS — Like an old couple locked in a love-hate relationship, France and the United States are going through one of their tetchy patches.

At odds over European security arrangements, economic policy and trade, the two erstwhile Gulf war allies are sniping at each other over everything from AIDS to airline schedules.

In the last 10 days, France's socialist leaders have bluntly blamed the Reagan and Bush administrations for causing both world economic stagnation and the Los Angeles riots.

While other allies observed a pained silence, President Francois Mitterrand was quick to cite President George Bush's social policies for the wave of violence and destruction which swept black neighbourhoods of America's second largest city.

"This is above all a racial conflict, and a racial conflict is always wedded to poor social conditions," he said. "Those who are at a disadvantage socially are at the same time at a disadvantage racially."

Prime Minister Pierre Bérégovoy said the world economic slowdown was due to an excessive U.S. budget deficit and accused Washington of making the rest of the world pay for mismanagement by former President Ronald Reagan.

Education and Culture Minister Jack Lang said the conservative Reagan administration's indifference to the poor had allowed the development of "vast zones of misery."

Diplomats say the French outbursts have both domestic and international causes.

On the home front, a Socialist government trailing in the opinion polls 10 months before parliamentary elections has every reason to blacken its conservative rivals by accusing them of advocating U.S.-style laissez-faire social policies.

On the international stage, France, a nuclear power with a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, is irritated by what it seems as growing U.S. pretensions to world domination following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

France, which left the U.S.-led NATO military command in 1966, stands almost alone in trying to block an expanded role for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to provide trouble-shooting forces for conflicts in Eastern Europe and beyond.

"Now that the cold war is over, the French no longer see any reason for the Americans to dominate security in Europe. They want the European Community to take on that role gradually," a West European diplomat said.

French officials felt their worst suspicions were confirmed by a

leaked Defence Department memorandum which urged U.S. leaders to prevent the EC becoming a potential rival power.

France and Germany are laying the foundations for a future European military force by establishing a joint army corps which they hope other EC member states will join.

The row over NATO's future pits France against pro-American European states such as Britain, the Netherlands and Italy. It has also torn at Germany's loyalties.

Mr. Mitterrand has voiced anger at U.S. efforts to coordinate western aid to the former Soviet republics when the EC was providing most of the money.

France was sour at being cut out of the Middle East peace process, diplomats said.

Paris and Washington are also at the centre of a tug-of-war over the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations. U.S. officials regard France, with its powerful farmers' lobby, as the main obstacle to curbing the European Community's subsidised agricultural exports.

The French accuse Washington of distorting the negotiations by focusing on agriculture while refusing concessions on services and applying U.S. export restrictions worldwide.

A host of lesser issues have soured relations. France has given notice on a nearly 50-year-old aviation treaty because it be-

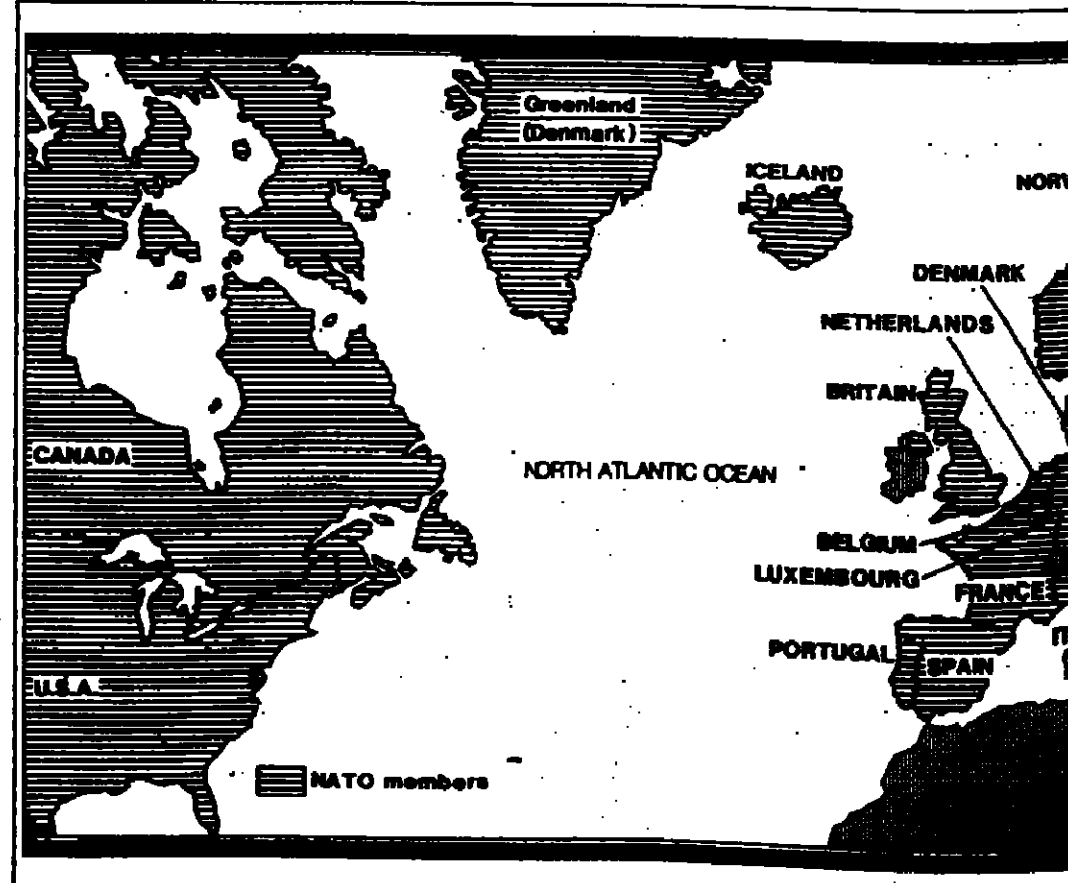
lieves its national carriers are being inundated by U.S. airlines on transatlantic routes.

Paris accuses U.S. researchers of having pirated the French discovery of the AIDS virus and is

demanding that Washington renegotiate a 1987 deal to split the royalties from AIDS tests.

Even such obscure issues as who should command the U.N. interim authority in Cambodia

have caused friction. Diplomats say France, which hosted last year's Cambodia peace conference, believed Washington had prevented a Frenchman from getting the job.



Today's graffiti had antique predecessors

By Franziska Becher

Grffiti, those sometimes irksome scribbles daubed or usually sprayed onto walls and facades, containing messages, slogans, aphorisms or figures of a generally provocative, ironic character are evidently not a modern-day phenomenon. Originally carved into stone, graffiti has a long tradition and mention is even made of them in the writings of Pliny the Younger.

This Roman statesman and man of letters, who lived from 61/62 until 113 A.D. and whose letters to his Emperor Trajan provided an illustrative picture of contemporary social life of his time, is primarily known for his vivid eye-witness account of the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius at Pompeii. As recently reported at the 12th International Congress for Christian Archaeology at the University of Bonn, Pliny remarked upon the graffiti

of his contemporaries and reported of one example found at the holy spring waters of the small river Citumnus in Umbria, north of Spoleto: "Much has been written by many on all pillars and all walls, praising the springs and God."

Having made a study of such graffiti, Professor Werner Eck, director of the Institute for Ancient History at the University of Cologne has revealed that it was a tradition throughout the whole of antiquity for travellers to leave behind written evidence of their visit. For example, researchers have discovered two inscriptions on the temples hewn out of the rocks, located on the western bank of the Nile in the ancient Egyptian town of Abu Simbel; carved letters of Greek visitors dating from the 6th century B.C.; and countless wall graffiti in various languages in the temples, inns, brothels or baths in Roman Pompeii and inscriptions

in the dried-up river valley, Wadi Haggag, on the Sinai Peninsula.

Although the examples of graffiti found in many areas and at holy shrines are of quite diverse origin, e.g. of ancient pagan or Christian provenance, the historians from Cologne feel they have been largely neglected by researchers. However, most texts are fairly mundane and quite limited and written mainly by their authors in a spontaneous gesture,

devoid of prior planning. Generally, therefore, people daubed their graffiti on plastered walls, as this did not require the use of special tools. However, the plaster work is also the least durable part of a building, exposed not only to the rigors of the natural elements but also directly affected by subsequent restoration or extension work on the building, or just a new coat of paint.

It is plausible that graffiti was

also considered as an eye-sore in ancient times and deliberately painted over — which would account for the lack of examples of graffiti found on the original parts of buildings, as is the case in Trier. In the choir of the Liebfrauenkirche, graffiti was discovered on fragments of plaster in the foundations of the parclose, which was rebuilt three times in the 4th century alone, and removed by the excavators.

But graffiti has also been discovered on pillars, door frames, marble wall linings and particularly on natural rock-faces lying on the outskirts of holy shrines, in areas of very low average precipitation. The most recent collection of Egyptian graffiti, dating from the time of Ptolemy in the 3rd century B.C. until the late Roman era, comprises 4,829 pieces. On the Sinai Peninsula at Wadi Haggag, four rocks bear a total of 263 inscriptions, 202 in Greek, 60 in the Nabatean dialect

of an Arabian tribe of traders and herdsmen, and also some in Latin. Numerous ceramic relics found at the foot of the rocks indicate the area was not a resting place — for the Wadi lies on the pilgrim trail running from Palestine to Mount Sinai and Catherine Monastery.

680 examples of graffiti on the tombs in Rome confirm sources of literary evidence that an increasing number of Christians travelled to Rome to visit the martyrs' graves, particularly those of Peter and Paul, following the beginning of religious freedom under Emperor Constantine the Great (280-337) — German Research Service.

Made in Jordan and proud with it

Randa Habib's Corner

Jordan is a small country but with great potentials. By international standards, we have meagre resources and a limited industrial capacity. Nevertheless, we could exploit our resources to yield optimum achievements at low cost and high quality.

Clothing industry is one sector in which we have proven competence and have acquired state-of-the-art know-how for many young talents have advanced in the field of fashion designing and tailoring. Upgrading this sector would reap a dual benefit: curtail non-stop imports of ready-to-wear clothes from neighbouring countries and establish a solid, strong industry that could become highly competitive and, ultimately, "invade" regional markets.

Recently I attended a number of fashion shows for women and children designed by young Jordanian pioneers who proved competent both in their style and their progressive approach to this sophisticated art.

To further develop this sector is a national duty. We, citizens and government alike, can give these pioneers a helping hand by encouraging them both in the public and private arenas. For its part, the government is kindly asked to guide the self-made designers and open for them the gates to foreign markets by giving them exports incentives. The people are likewise requested to encourage local production. I, myself, feel proud to wear a dress labelled "Made in Jordan."

So, we should join efforts to make it a successful Jordanian experiment.

U.S. plays down Israel row

(Continued from page 1)

dicted Palestinians, faced with Israel's refusal to allow the refugees back, would propose as a compromise that Israel let them return only to the West Bank and Gaza.

"Bringing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to be sitting on the hills of Samaria and the mountains of Judea (the West Bank) or the plains of Gaza, looking at the places where their

ancestors were living, will create worse bloodshed and will destroy any achievements that we might have in the peace process," Mr. Sharon told Israel radio.

Mr. Sharon said that for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which directs the Palestinian team at Middle East peace talks from behind the scenes, limiting the right of return to the occupied territories would be a "great concession."

Conference agrees to help refugees

(Continued from page 1)

of his government ministers were "harmful, but you can't shut some people up."

Mr. Perron said participants had agreed to meet again in Canada in the fall. Meanwhile, Canada would work to bring Israel into the process as well as Syria and Lebanon which also boycotted the conference.

One U.S. official expressed relief that the conference had calmed down after a stormy opening session on Wednesday in which Palestinian delegate Elias

Sanbar defiantly asserted that implementation of the right of return for all Palestinian exiles was a condition for Arab-Israeli peace.

"It's a success, everything stayed on track. It could have been much worse," the official said.

Palestinians and Jordan had been hoping for a more explicit reaffirmation of United Nations resolutions that state the right of Palestinian refugees to return to homes they fled or were driven from in the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948 and 1967.

Solh names his cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Solh's cabinet is the third to be formed since Mr. Hrawi was elected president Nov. 24, 1989 under an Arab League-brokered peace plan that ended the civil war.

The government change will not affect Lebanon's policy in the Middle East peace talks. Outgoing Foreign Minister Faris Bweiri retained the post in the new cabinet.

So "Old Defence Minister Michel Murr, Interior Minister Sami Khatib and the main militia chieftains who stayed on as state ministers without portfolio. The Arab League-brokered peace plan retained the presidency for the Maronite Catholics, the prime minister's post for the Sunni Muslims and the post of house speaker for the Shiite Muslims. Lebanon's economy, ravaged

by the civil war, has slipped into chaos since the conflict ended. International aid has not been forthcoming to pay for a reconstruction bill estimated at \$20 billion.

The Lebanese pound, once the soundest currency in the Middle East, plummeted to a record low of 2,100 to the U.S. dollar before Mr. Karam's downfall.

It sold for 880 to the dollar in February. Before the war, it rated 2.5 to the dollar.

The rapid decline sent prices sky high in a country that imports 85 per cent of its basic needs. The new government was formed two days before expiration of a deadline set by the 350,000-strong General Federation of Labour Unions to resume a nationwide strike demanding economic reforms, if a new cabinet were not formed.

Non-aligned welcome Libya's move

(Continued from page 1)

Croatian and Slovenian delegates were disappointed at the failure of their attempt to gain official status at the Bali meeting.

"They were too involved in the game of compromise, of failing to see the new realities in the world," Croatian delegate Damir Grabisa said of the non-aligned members.

He blamed Belgrade for a deadlock over according Croatia observer status and Slovenia guest status.

The moderates also headed off suggestions that the word intolerable be used to describe moves by donor countries to link aid with human rights.

Libyan demand

Libya is threatening to pull out of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) unless the four other member states help it break the U.N. sanctions imposed last month, the head of state of Algeria said in an interview published on Friday.

ABU DHABI	AMMAN	AMSTERDAM	ANKARA	AQABA	ATHENS	BAGHDAD	BAHRAIN
BANGKOK	BEIRUT	BELGRADE	BERLIN	BRUSSELS	CAIRO	CALCUTTA	CASABLANCA
COLOMBO	DAMASCUS	DELI	DHAKA	DUBAI	FRANKFURT	GENEVA	
ISTANBUL	JAKARTA	JEDDAH	KARACHI	KUALA LUMPUR	KUWAIT	LARNACA	LONDON
MADRID	MONTREAL	MOSCOW	MUSCAT	NEW YORK	PARIS	RIYADH	ROME
				SANAA	SINGAPORE	TORONTO	TRIPOLI
						TUNIS	VIENNA

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Mansell stays in command

IMOLA, Italy (R) — World championship leader Nigel Mansell starts Sunday's San Marino Grand Prix from his fifth successive pole position of the season despite failing to improve his time in final qualifying Saturday.

The Williams driver was fastest in the session but could not better his Friday effort of one minute 21.842 seconds on the demanding 5.040-kms Autodromo Enzo E. Dino Ferrari.

Alongside Mansell on the front row for the 61-lap race will be team mate Riccardo Patrese.

The Italian veteran, restricted to five minutes track time at the end of Friday's session because of an engine change on his car, improved by a full second to jump from fifth to second on the

grid.

He was one of only 13 drivers to register quicker times in the high temperatures which resulted in slower track conditions and also raised questions about reliability for many teams.

World champion Ayrton Senna, like Mansell, failed to improve and he will share the second row with his McLaren team mate Gerhard Berger, another who fared no better.

The Benetton's German Michael Schumacher and Briton Martin Brundle, who managed a 1.3 seconds improvement, ended up fifth and sixth fastest to fill the third row ahead of the Ferraris of Frenchman Jean Alesi and Italian Ivan Capelli.

Mansell is poised to become

the first man to win five successive Grands Prix from the start of the season — a feat that would give him a huge lead in the World Championship.

Mansell said: "My lap yesterday was a special one. I thought I might get close to my time again this afternoon, but I made a mistake at the end of the straight and locked up the front left and ran wide on the kerb."

"I damaged the underneath of the car a bit aerodynamically and I was not able to repeat my time from the morning session. But I was still pleased."

"Reliability is going to be very important here in the race. This is the longest straight we have been on this year and it puts a lot of strain on the engine. It could be a

very tough race."

Patrese was far happier than Friday, but warned that the track conditions and the heat could cause problems. "But, overall, I am very happy — I was aiming for the front row today."

Senna, disappointed at his lack of progress, said the track conditions had made life more difficult for him today and added that he was hoping the McLaren MP4/7's would be reliable for the race.

Schumacher was also disappointed. He said: "Things did not go quite as well as usual. We made some changes but they did not go as planned."

Brundle said his flying lap late in the session which hoisted him up to sixth was a "real banzai effort."



Steffi Graf

Graf battles back to reach Berlin final

BERLIN (R) — Top seed Steffi Graf made a courageous comeback after losing the first set to beat American teenager Jennifer Capriati 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the German Open clay-court semifinals Saturday.

The German world number two lacked conviction in the first set and appeared in real danger of losing the match against the 16-year-old Capriati, who is ranked sixth.

Although Graf took the second set after a break of service in the eighth game, Capriati led 2-0 in the third set after an early break and looked on her way to an

upset.

But the German kept her cool and broke back to 2-2. She produced her best tennis at the right time, breaking in the ninth game to lead 3-4 before successfully serving out for the match.

Graf has now reached the final of the Berlin event — a key preparation on clay for the French Open at the end of the month — for the last eight years, winning five times.

In Sunday's final, she will play the winner of other semifinal between Spanish second seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and American fourth seed Mary Joe Fernandez.

Brazil soccer stars bow to lesser players, dogs

LONDON (R) — Brazil's soccer stars found themselves playing second fiddle Friday to English third division players and a pack of greyhounds.

The three-times world champions, who face England at Wembley Sunday, were barred from training at the stadium because it is staging the final of a minor cup competition Saturday. Wembley also regularly holds a greyhound racing meeting Friday nights.

After making do with a pitch at a private sports club in a south London suburb, Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said: "The ground was too hard, it's like cement and jars the players' joints and muscles. Also it was uneven in the middle."

He added: "We wanted to train at Wembley. Even in the World Cup you get the chance to train on the grounds that you are going to play on."

"But we were told we couldn't use Wembley because there was a dog race on."

A spokesman for the Brazilian team said the squad were told they could visit the stadium but not practice on the pitch because of a minor cup final being played there Saturday between third division Stoke and Stockport.

Parreira asked the English F.A. to find a suitable venue for their final practice and Saturday they will now train after the England players at Bisham Abbey, north of London — the For Brazil, attempting yet

another rebirth since the last of home side's headquarters.

Despite the problems, Parreira said of Sunday's match: "It's always a game we Brazilians look forward to. It's a meeting of two different schools of football and always seems to make for an exciting match."

Brazil will be playing England at Wembley for the third time in five years and looking for their first victory in London since 1981.

England, playing their last home match before the European Championship in Sweden next month, beat Brazil 1-0 at Wembley in 1990, current captain Gary Lineker scoring the only goal.

Lineker, who bows out of international soccer after next month's European Championship, can equal Bobby Charlton's England record of 49 goals if he scores for the third time against the Brazilians.

Their three World Cup triumphs in 1970, it will be a second serious test for coach Parreira after a 1-0 away defeat by arch-rivals Uruguay two weeks ago.

Liverpool winger John Barnes, who stunned Maracana fans with a superb solo goal in England's 2-0 win in Rio De Janeiro in 1984, is fighting to be fit for a fourth consecutive appearance against the South Americans.

Barnes, who has nothing to envy the Brazilians in terms of ball skills, has a calf problem that kept him out of Liverpool's victorious side in last Saturday's F.A. Cup final.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Bulgarian lifters await drug probe

SOFIA (R) — Six Bulgarian weightlifters who tested positive for drugs earlier this year may yet participate in the Barcelona Olympics after the Health Ministry suspended their two-year bans Friday. "The Health Ministry decreed a moratorium on the ban of the six lifters until the investigation launched last month is over," said Nurair Nurikyan, head coach of the Bulgarian weightlifting team. The lifters, who include two former world champions, supplied positive samples after a routine dope test at the National Sports Medicine Centre before the European Championships in April. But Nurikyan insisted there had been outside interference and an official investigation was launched.

Toulon relegated to 2nd division

PARIS (R) — Toulon were relegated to the second division Thursday because of financial problems, the French Soccer Federation (FFF) said. The club came under fire at the start of last season when some of its leading officials were charged with fraud and jailed. The club's debts at the time were estimated at 70 million francs (\$14 million). Last season, three first division teams, Bordeaux, Nice and Brest were also relegated because of heavy debts. Toulon, who finished 14th in the league, may appeal against the decision, taken by a financial commission of the FFF.

FBI probes boxing promoter's empire

NEW YORK (AP) — Don King's boxing empire, already rocked by the rape conviction of Mike Tyson and a stream of affidavits questioning the promoter's financial deals with the former heavyweight champion, now has come under the scrutiny of the FBI. Two agents appeared at King's Manhattan townhouse Thursday "in connection with an ongoing investigation," according to bureau spokesman Joe Valente. The agents, who did not divulge the nature of the investigation. The agents, who did not have a federal search warrant, stayed at King's office for about an hour. Two newspapers reported that they confiscated computer disks and financial records, but a spokesman for the promoter said nothing was removed from the building. "Nothing was taken," spokesman John Solberg said. "No computer disks and no documents were removed... and they had no search warrant." Solberg said the agents subpoenaed "some material and some members of Don King Productions in connection with their investigation."

Boxing champ sentenced for rape

MIAMI (AP) — A judge Friday sentenced former heavyweight champion Trevor Berbick to four years in prison for raping a family baby sitter. Dade Circuit Judge Thomas Wilson had twice delayed sentencing of the former heavyweight champion for mental evaluation after his outbursts in court. But Wilson pronounced him legally competent Friday after hearing testimony from court-appointed psychiatrists. When the judge handed down the sentence, the boxer once again shouted out, directing his anger at his wife and attorney, whom he accused of conspiring against him. "You know what you did. God will punish you," Berbick yelled at them.

Christie apologises for outburst

LONDON (R) — Linford Christie, Britain's Olympic athletics captain, apologised Friday for criticising the country's 4 X 400 metres relay squad following its World Championship success. Christie had caused a furore by claiming his team mates had let their Tokyo victory go to their heads and suggesting they had "mucked up" their individual events. By contrast, he pointed out he had broken the 100 metres European record, despite finishing only fourth to Carl Lewis. "They are not my sort of guys. I don't like their attitude," Christie had said. But after meeting team manager Joan Allison Friday the pair agreed a statement which read: "With hindsight, Linford accepts it was a mistake to make such comments. He fully accepts his responsibilities to the team as their captain, hopes the matter will be laid to rest and everyone will pull together to prepare for what we believe will be our best ever Olympics."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSCH
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TEST YOUR PLAY

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ Q 10 9
♥ K 9
♦ A 10 4
♣ A K 7 3

WEST EAST
♠ 8 5 4 3 2 ♠ A 7
♥ 7 ♥ Q J 8 5 2
♦ Q 10 7 5 3 ♦ K 9 2
♣ 10 2 ♣ 8 6 5 4

SOUTH
♠ K 10 6 4 3
♥ 8
♦ Q J 9

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♥ Pass
3 NT Pass 4 ♥ Pass
5 ♥ Pass 6 ♥ Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠.
There are many facets of declarer play that are automatic to the good technician. Study the combined North-South holding and decide how you would play six hearts after the lead of a low spade.
The bidding is interesting. South's auction shows a hand with slam interest but no side-suit ace to cue-bid — had South been interested only in game, there would have been no reason to first jump to three hearts instead of straight to four. With 17 high-card points and the king of trumps, North cooperated by cue-bidding five clubs. Since North knew South had no side-suit ace, North could not be accepting

the slam try without holding at least two aces, so South went directly to six hearts on the strength of the second-round controls in both unbid suits.

When we saw this hand played, East won the ace of spades and returned the suit to the king. Declarer cashed the king and ace of trumps to learn of the bad break. A trump coup would be needed to neutralize East's trump length.

Declarer crossed to the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. The queen of clubs was cashed, the nine of clubs went to the king and another diamond was ruffed. Declarer now entered dummy with the ace of clubs, and all would have been well if clubs had split evenly or had East started with three spades. As it was, declarer had to try to cash the queen of spades, but East ruffed for down one.

Declarer's timing was off just a little. After winning the king of spades at trick two, declarer should immediately have cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. When the ace and king reveals the break, declarer is on the board to ruff another diamond. Now declarer cashes the queen and jack of clubs before crossing to the king of clubs, and the contract is secure. Declarer simply discards a spade on the ace of clubs and is left with Q 10 of hearts poised over East's J 8. Any card from dummy allows declarer to score the last two tricks and the slam.

Al Dustour basketball tournament ends today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Al Dustour Basketball Championship concludes when Jordan's all-time rivals Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxy clash in the match deciding the third and fourth places. The match will also determine whether Iraq's Al Karkh, or their runner-up in the Iraqi first division, Al Shurta wins the championship title.

If Al Orthodoxy wins the match they will finish third and Al Karkh will win the title. On the other hand if Al Ahli wins, they will capture third place and Al Shurta will win the title based on score difference.

All teams took a day off from competition Saturday after a tense and competitive day on Friday in which Lebanon's Al Riyadi, who had only beaten the Sudanese national team, lost a golden chance to defeat Iraqi champions Al Karkh.

Al Riyadi won the first half 44-43 and were leading 70-60 in the second half before Al Karkh took the lead and won the match with only a six point difference of 95-89.

Also Friday Jordan's Al Ahli dropped out of the race for the championship title when they lost 100-89 to Al Shurta. Al Shurta won the first half 49-45.

STANDINGS UP TO MAY 16

Team	Played	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Al Karkh	5	4	1	487	406	9
Al Orthodoxy	5	4	1	466	423	9
Al Shurta	5	4	1	475	448	9
Al Ahli	5	3	2	407	388	8
Al Markazi	5	2	3	385	393	7
Al Riyadi	6	1	5	507	539	7
Al Khartoum	5	-	5	333	463	5

Coach does not expect easy win for U.S. basketball team

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AP) — Chuck Daly has heard all the talk about how his NBA-loaded U.S. Olympic basketball team should steamroll its way to a gold medal in Barcelona.

He believes the United States will reclaim the gold. He just doesn't expect it to be quite so easy.

"The U.S. hockey team proved (in 1980) what can happen in a given situation," Daly said Friday. "They weren't supposed to win a game, let alone a gold medal. Strange things happen."

"And when you look at the 40-minute game instead of the 48-minute game, this is my major concern. The best international teams shoot 20 to 30 threes. If

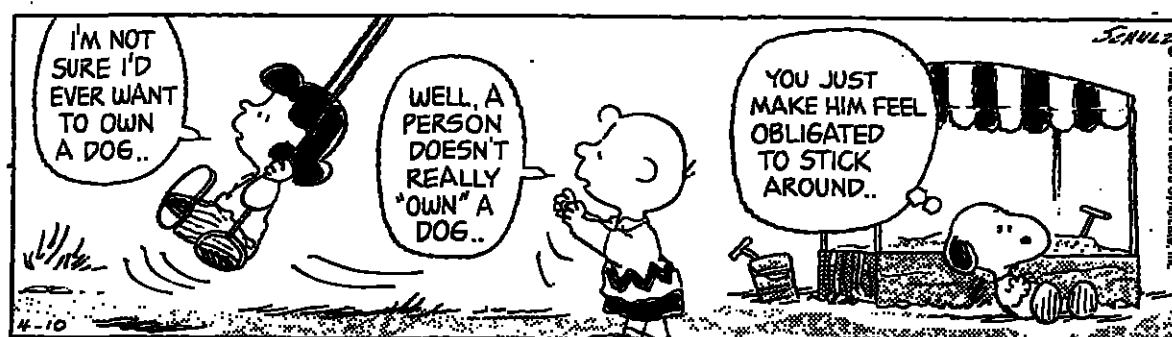
you start knocking down those shots in a 40-minute game, a lot of things can change."

The other major challenge, he said, will be melding the dozen players — 11 NBA stars and Duke's Christian Laettner — into a unit.

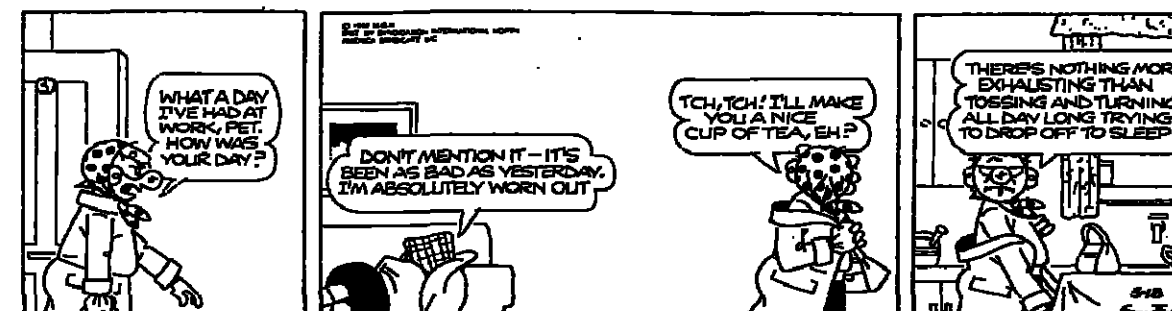
"We have no question the greatest array of talent ever put together," said Daly, who retired last week after nine years as coach of the Detroit Pistons. "But array of talent and putting together a team is a whole different process."

"We will be the favorite, we should win the gold and I think we will win the gold. But I don't think it will be without a little trepidation."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MAY 17, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You feel that you are being imposed upon early this morning but try to remain calm for later on during the day you will be able to view the entire episode from another direction.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your best results today are in doing what you like the most and steering clear of worldly activities for they could hold a snare for you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't get involved in anything that is different from what you have found to be an acceptable and workable plan to gain your most cherished longings privately.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A day to get together with friends and acquaintances who are of vital and helpful importance in your life and enjoy them personally and at recreations.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have more charm and magnetic radiance than for some time so be sure you use it in public and let others know of your affection for them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Now you have every sort of ability to get advisors you like and who can assist your progress to give you the various means to be more successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is the day for you to map out a course of action whereby you

can make those intimate aims that mean so much to the actual part of your life.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have a real chance now to see influential men and women who can give you the backing you want but be especially charming to them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be alert and openminded to all kinds of accepted new interests by which you make your life more pleasant and agreeable with much less effort.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have a day now when you can appraise the value of whatever your assets and decide just how you can gain more of them in the future.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Put a little more emotion and praise in dealing with associates who are inclined to be reticent or look for reasons to have feelings hurt.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Find some improved ways to make your surroundings more attractive and so they will be more operative as well as of a greater amount of value.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can have one of your happiest of days now and especially by getting in touch with as many persons you like as possible and arrange to see them.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"It's raisin toast for dieters. I poked out all the raisins and replaced them with peas."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YARDS

ORGPU

RAZABA

NYLKID



WHAT A "CHIP" ON THE SHOULDER USUALLY IS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: JUST

Answers Monday

Yesterday's Jumbles: BULGY MANGE VANDAL YEARLY

Answer: Strange as it sounds, people who are supposed to have "polsk" frequently seem to be this—VERY DULL.

THE Daily Crossword

by Raymond Hamel

ACROSS

1 Antip

5 Paperlike cloth

9 Singing vocal

14 River, river

15 Preface for

17 Cheat and cheat

18 Aircraft head?

19 Michelangelo work

20 Famed football coach

22 Cog

24 Center base

25 Like Crane's horseman

27 Fly

31 Egypt, goddess

32 Life story

33 Nonsense

36 Partner

38 Baseball stat.

41 Alicia of TV

42 Quince a.g.

43 Actress Sommer

44 Planet

46 Pierre's refusal

47 "If I —"

10 Cup

11 Cut

12 "—" org. life

13 Ba. k. dealings

21 Long time

22 Innocent

26 Sylvester's

27 Singer Lane

28 Iron money

29 "Giant" star

30 Latin abbr.

31 Parched

32 Mis Maxwell

35 Outcome

37 Old prophet

38 Incubation

40 Mend

44 John — Jones

45 Gormendized

46 Draw idly

50 Hesitation

51 Snake's warning

52 Pentateuch

53 Speechify

54 Large and small

55 Duck

56 Eastern blight

57 Type of

58 Gossip

59 Lab vessel

60 Yale student

Russia faces unemployment surge

MOSCOW (R) — Russia is facing a surge in unemployment with 13 million people looking for new jobs by the second half of 1992, ITAR-TASS news agency quoted official analysts as saying Friday.

"By summer the overall number of vacant places will become smaller than the number of candidates for them," TASS said.

The experts, from the government's Economic Reform Centre, said about seven million people would find jobs on their own.

A further six million would register with state employment agencies. Of these 2.5 million would be given work while the remaining 3.5 million would become unemployed.

The experts calculated that 1.5 million temporarily unemployed people would be retained. Others would be eligible for unemployment benefit.

The jobs crunch accompanies Russia's current painful switch to a market economy under reforms spearheaded by President Boris Yeltsin.

The analysts said more than a million people would lose work in defence industries, which are being trimmed now that the cold war is over.

The reforms, including hefty price rises for most key products, have already boosted inflation, and TASS said government plans to raise oil and gas prices would further increase overall price levels.

"Calculations show that the increase in oil and gas prices will lead to a general rise in prices of about 70 per cent," TASS quoted Andrei Netchayev, Russia's economy minister, as telling a meeting of senior officials.

Russia plans to keep energy prices in a reasonable range by setting limits and fixing firms which sell oil or gas for prices that are too high or too low.

The new oil price range for industry, introduced Friday, is between 1,800 roubles and 2,200 roubles (\$18 and \$22 at the central bank's fixed "market rate") per tonne, up from about 350 roubles (\$3.50).

India orders police probe into stock scandal

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh has ordered a police inquiry into the involvement of three state-run banks in a major stock market scandal.

He told parliament the Central Bureau of Investigation, the federal police organisation, would investigate loans from the banks to a big Bombay stockbroker accused by newspapers and opposition politicians of manipulating the market for profit.

"We will take whatever follow-up action is required," Mr. Singh told opposition members demanding immediate arrests and trials.

They alleged that up to 25 billion rupees (nearly \$1 billion) was involved in the scandal already being investigated by the Reserve Bank of India, the central bank.

They demanded the arrest of Harshad Mehta, one of the biggest players on India's biggest bourses who has been named in newspapers as well as in parliament as the recipient of dubious loans from the three banks.

Mr. Mehta has refused to speak to journalists since his alleged involvement in what Indian newspapers call "the stock scam" emerged.

Mr. Singh said documents recovered in February raids on Mr. Mehta suggested there was prima facie evidence that bank officials colluded with him to manipulate the market and that they misused official powers.

He said senior officials of the three banks had either been asked to resign or go on leave pending completion of the central bank inquiry, but arrests and charges would have to await the outcome of the investigations.

Mr. Singh named the three banks as the United Commercial Bank, the National Housing Bank and the State Bank of India (SBI).

He said the SBI, reported by newspapers to have lent more than six billion rupees (\$210 million) to Mr. Mehta, had got its money back and he was hopeful the other two banks would also recover their loans.

ADB declares war on poverty and population growth in Africa

DAKAR (R) — Africa's top development bank has declared war on poverty and one of its key battles will be against population growth which, at 3.2 per cent a year, far outstrips growth in other continents.

The war against poverty is one of four strategies for the next five years adopted by the African Development Bank (ADB) at an annual meeting which ended in Dakar Thursday.

In a continent where economies have been ravaged by heavy foreign debt, depressed prices for mineral and farm exports, civil strife and severe drought, people are worse off on average than 30 years ago, it said.

"If the regional growth pattern of the 1980s is repeated in the 1990s, per capita incomes will fall 20 per cent below today's levels," said Peter Freeman, head of the international arm of Britain's Overseas Development Administration.

Yet there is no sign of any widespread economic recovery soon in Africa, which must now compete against the former Soviet Bloc and eastern Europe for aid from industrialised nations where recession has put pressure on government budgets.

"Programmes combating poverty and excessive population growth have to be mutually reinforcing," said the bank's president, Babacar Ndiaye.

"The downward trend in the African economy has been aggravated year after year by the rapid rate of population growth. Agricultural production has not kept pace with population growth, with the result that Africa has to depend on food imports," he added.

Some 45 per cent of the estimated 640 million people in Africa are children aged under 15 years.

Bank officials say it will take political will and extensive family planning education to change attitudes in African societies which have traditionally valued large families.

Failure will be costly.

"Even if fertility rates were to fall immediately to their replacement levels, it would take several decades before the increase in Africa's population would be arrested," said Ferhat Lounes, the bank's vice president for central operations.

The other strategies in the five-year plan include rebuilding facilities damaged by neglect or war, promoting the private sector in a continent where bloated and inefficient state enterprises have long way, and integration in line with proposals to set up an African common market by the year 2025.

The bank is thinking of launching an African export-import bank which the bank management approved in principle last week.

Industrialised countries reassured Africa that official development aid, which accounts for more than 40 per cent of all investment in the continent, will continue to flow in order to support economic recovery and alleviate poverty.

But they said Africa would also need substantial private investment to recover and it could attract this only if African states develop market economies, uphold the rule of law and make appropriate reforms to tax and other economic legislation.

The World Bank estimates that financial returns on private investment in Africa have fallen from over 30 per cent in the 1960s to 2.5 per cent in the 1980s. Returns in south Asia average 20 per cent or more, the meeting was told.

U.S. investment in Africa totalled \$4.7 billion in 1990, compared with \$25 billion each for South America and Asia.

Donor countries argued that private investment offered potentially far greater rewards than aid, not only in the wealth it generated. It also brings technical, managerial and marketing skills, and does not add to national debt.

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 14/5	NEW YORK CLOSE 15/5
Sterling Pound	1.8215	1.8235
Deutsche Mark	1.6130	1.605
Swiss Franc	1.4740	1.4445
French Franc	5.4160	5.403
Japanese Yen	130.24	129.85
European Currency Unit	1.2750	1.2765

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 UNIT	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.75	3.81	3.93	4.25
Sterling Pound	9.87	9.87	9.87	9.87
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.75	9.75	9.68
Swiss Franc	9.18	9.00	9.68	8.43
French Franc	9.81	9.81	9.81	9.81
Japanese Yen	4.71	4.65	4.56	4.53
European Currency Unit	9.93	9.93	9.93	9.93

Precious Metals

Metal	UNIT/OUN	UNIT/OUN	Metal	UNIT/OUN	UNIT/OUN
Gold	338.55	6.60	Silver	4.09	.090

Fiat profit slumps

MILAN, Italy (R) — Fiat SPA, Italy's biggest private sector group, announced Friday its 1991 net profit fell more than 30 per cent and it was cutting dividends accordingly.

But the stock market and analysts appeared relieved the news was not worse.

New profit dropped to 1.1 trillion lire (\$994 million) from 1.6 trillion a year ago, as its industrial activities, and particularly the car sector, came under increased competition.

Europe's second biggest carmaker said it was cutting its ordinary dividend 37 per cent to 230 lire.

"The figures are satisfying overall," particularly if the results obtained by the auto division are considered against a background of mounting competition," Fiat said in a statement.

The results had been helped by the profits made on the sale of some assets during the year and moves to cut costs.

Profits from car production, which accounts for around half of Fiat's \$6 trillion lire (\$45 million) turnover, slumped to 386 billion (\$313 million), 48 per cent down on the previous year.

France to reduce stake in Total

PARIS (AP) — The government said Friday that it will reduce its holdings in Total S.A., the state-controlled oil company, from 34 per cent to 15 per cent.

The government said it has not decided when to sell and that the date would be determined by market conditions.

"This significant reduction in the state's share is justified by the changes in the oil environment which are substantially different from the conditions that motivated the significant state stake in Total's capital in the 1920s," the finance ministry statement said.

It noted that with the 19 per cent divestiture there will be "two large French oil companies with a strong international presence, one public and one private."

Societe Nationale Elf Aquitaine will remain under government control.

A Total spokeswoman, who declined to be named, said that of the 19 per cent to be sold, seven per cent consists of non-voting investment certificates that holders can exchange for voting shares in a swap. The swap would offer four certificates for three shares.

The remaining 12 per cent to be sold would presumably be placed on the market.

The spokeswoman provided no other details and no one could be reached late Friday at the finance ministry for comment.

Of the 15 per cent that will remain in the public sector, the government said it intends to keep only five per cent as a direct stake. It was not immediately clear how the government would distribute the remaining 10 per cent.

The announcement followed recent statements by government officials, including Finance Minister Michel Sapin, that France intends to reduce its stake in corporations.

Savings will be used, in part, on programmes to reduce the nation's 10 per cent unemployment rate, a serious political problem in France.

In mid-March, France sold a 2.3 per cent stake in Elf, paring down its controlling shares to 51.5 per cent under revised rules adopted last September. The new rules allow the state to reduce its controlling stake in companies to 51 per cent.

The Elf sale was announced in November 1991, but a sudden slide of the Paris bourse forced a postponement till March.

Now, the Paris stock market is at its highest level in about two years, with Total's shares closing at 260 francs (\$48) a share on Friday. The company's shares have risen 5.9 per cent since the end of 1991.

Newspaper tells Chinese to take investment risk lesson from Kang

BEIJING (R) — A Chinese investor who lost money on the Shanghai Stock Exchange hanged himself, and an official newspaper Friday warned would-be punters to take the suicide as a lesson on investment risk.

A 41-year-old company worker, identified only as Kang, killed himself on April 20 after he lost 6,449 yuan (\$1,172) on shares of Shanghai Yangzhong Industrial, the Liberation Daily said.

The stock became the centre of attention this week after an official investigation into a scandal over share price manipulation.

The trading and industrial blue-chip was the first Chinese company to issue shares to the public since 1949, and the scandal is one of the most serious since the Shanghai market opened its doors in December 1990.

The Liberation Daily used Kang's case as an object lesson and, in an editorial, delivered a homily on investment risk.

"It's not right to believe that socialist shareholding leads automatically to big fortunes," it said. "But many people believe this. Once the stock index falls, people can't stand the economic loss."

Shanghai and Shenzhen have been gripped by stock market fever since the markets opened some 18 months ago, and investors, desperate for opportunities, have snapped up each new issue.

"Shareholding is new to (China's) socialist economic field and is not a mature system yet here," the newspaper said.

It noted that buying shares entailed more risk than investment in state treasury bonds.

"Before engaging in the stock exchange, you should be prepared for losses and realise you are taking a risk," it concluded. "This is the lesson we must draw from Kang's case."

Brokers said Friday that China has issued a stern warning that chaos was threatening its stock markets as investors threw caution to the wind and sent prices rocketing on the southern Shenzhen exchange.

"B" shares reserved for foreigners have soared by up to 45 per cent in the past week alone in Shenzhen, following wild demand for "A" shares traded by Chinese citizens.

Stock market fever is sweeping China as investors, desperate for a better return than the slim interest rates offered by state banks, battle for limited supplies of stock.

Vicious fights erupted between gangs trying to jump queues of genuine investors in Shenzhen.

Two people have been stabbed to death and police rounded up 200 gangsters this week to try to stop the violence.

Brokers in neighbouring Hong Kong who handle most B share trading said investors are ignoring normal yardsticks such as price/earnings (P/E) ratios in the scramble for stock.

"Everybody is crazy about this market," said Alice Lau of Chintung Ltd. "Whether they know the shares or not, they don't care about the fundamentals. Nobody's asking about the P/E, earnings per share or anything like that."

P/E ratios, current market price of a stock as a multiple of its total per share earnings for the previous 12 months, is one indicator of whether a stock is good value.

In a sign of official alarm, the Beijing-controlled China News Service (CNS) said chaos could ensue and economic reforms could be endangered if too many stock markets opened too soon.

Several cities are vying to follow Shanghai and Shenzhen in opening stock markets.

"There will be chaos and even an uncontrollable situation if various places in China stampede to set up stock exchanges before problems are solved," the Hong Kong-based news agency quoted experts as saying.

"China's financial authorities are concerned about this and have decided to control the situation which could ruin China's economic reforms and development," it said.

Chinese investors do not realise that fortunes can be lost as well as made on the two stock markets, which have reopened only in the past two years after a 40-year ban, it said.

"Experts point out that there is a lack of risk concept in the stock markets, as demand outstrips supply and there seems to be no fall — only rises," CNS said.

"Investors are concerned only about how much they can make from rising share prices, but care less about the listed companies' operations and financial condition," it said.

Foreigners have joined the stampede, snapping up shares in the six companies issuing B shares — the only vehicle for overseas investment in Chinese stocks in Shenzhen.

In huge turnover, newly listed Shenzhen Petrochemical led the gains with a 45 per cent surge this week to 15.50 yuan (\$2.90) — about five times its issue price — followed by Shenzhen Properties, which rose 38 per cent to 12.30 (\$2.30).

Rumours that headline leader Chen Yun would visit Shenzhen, the showcase for paramount leader Deng Xiaoping's reforms, started the surge Tuesday.

"Everybody is using the rumour as an excuse. Actually it's a demand-driven market. There are only six shares to choose from. It's not much," Chintung's Lau said.

"Sellers refuse to sell every day. I keep on telling the major holders to start selling because there are good profits to be made," she said. "But the shares keep on moving up. That's why they're hesitant to sell."

Cuba seeks to diversify sugar industry, markets

HAVANA (R) — Cuba is diversifying its sugar industry and seeking new trade outlets to offset the loss of its traditional markets in East Europe and the former Soviet Union, the island's top sugar officials have said.

"Cuba will continue to be a major producer of sugar for different world markets," Sugar Minister Juan Herrera told a sugar conference in Havana.

He said the communist-ruled island would seek to boost its raw sugar production while at the same time increasing its refining capacity and the development of a wide range of sugar cane derivatives for internal use and possible export.

Mr. Herrera declined to give an exact production estimate for Cuba's 1991/1992 sugar harvest, which has been badly delayed by shortages of oil, lubricants and machinery spares.

He said projections by different international analysts had ranged from 5.5 million tonnes to more than seven million.

"It's going to be inside that range," Mr. Herrera said. Cuba's 1990/1991 production totalled 7.6 million tonnes.

Alberto Betancourt, director of the state sugar selling company Cubazucar, said predictions by analysts that a surplus of Cuba sugar would depress the world market in 1991 and 1992 had proved to be unfounded so far.

This was despite the loss of traditional markets in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, which together had accounted for between 60 and 70 per cent of Cuba's total sugar exports.

"Our sugar trading policy has been directed towards the search for new markets," Mr. Betancourt said. This export drive included the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union.

One new direct client for Cuba is Iran, which had contracted for 200,000 tonnes of sugar this year. China remained the island's biggest far eastern client but both Japan and in the western hemisphere, Canada, were importing significant amounts of Cuban sugar.

Mr. Herrera said Cuba was planning to increase its sugar refining capacity. Cuban exports of refined sugar have in the past totalled around 300,000 tonnes a year, going to customers in Africa and the Middle East, according to trade officials.

Cuba was ready to cooperate with foreign partners to build new refineries on the island, he added.

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Fighting continues as U.N. troops pull out of Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Serb and Muslim fighters ignored an hours-old truce and resumed fighting Saturday. The battle imperiled negotiations between the warring parties and forced U.N. peacekeeping troops to flee.

The resurgent fighting killed at least one person in Sarajevo before midday at least eight people died in Tuzla, north of the capital, Sarajevo Radio reported.

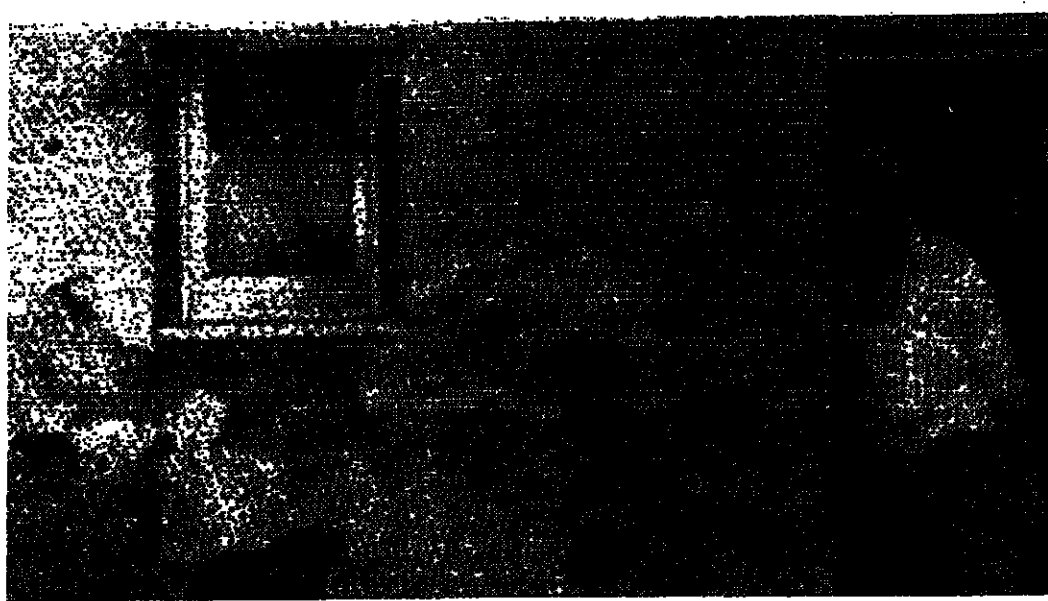
More than 1,300 people have died and 700,000 have fled since Muslims and Croats in Bosnia voted 10 weeks ago to secede from Serbian-dominated Yugoslavia. Yugoslav-backed Serbs in Bosnia have seized two-thirds of the republic.

Sarajevo has been the headquarters for the United Nations' 14,000-man peacekeeping mission in neighbouring Croatia, but U.N. officers decided to pull out more than half their troops because of the severity of the recent fighting.

An 80-vehicle convoy carrying about 170 U.N. troops started out from Sarajevo for Belgrade, the Yugoslav capital, Saturday morning. There were unconfirmed reports it was stopped at a Serb-controlled roadblock on its way out of the city, said U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhardt.

Mr. Eckhardt said the peacekeeping force's leader Gen. Satish Nambiar, who had been trapped by the fighting for two days in his villa, planned to leave Monday with staff officers, but about 120 U.N. monitors would remain.

The renewed fighting scuttled planned negotiations that officials had planned Saturday if the ceasefire was observed. Darko Ivic, a Bosnian government official, said there would be no talks among



A Muslim couple look out warily from their home in a Bosnian village where 6 people died after a Serbian attack.

Bosnian authorities. The Serbs and the Yugoslav army.

The fighting came just hours after the U.N. worked out a ceasefire. A truce reached Wednesday also broke down in fewer than 24 hours.

In New York Friday, the U.N. Security Council unanimously passed a resolution demanding that Serb-led federal forces and Croatian soldiers withdraw from Bosnia or place their troops and weapons under Bosnian control.

"Any change of borders by force is not acceptable," the resolution said, in a criticism of apparent efforts by Serbia to absorb areas of neighbouring republics into a greater Serbia.

The resolution also demands that demobilized troops and militiamen in U.N.-protected zones in Croatia be disarmed.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said food was running short in Sarajevo and firefighters didn't have water to fight fires.

Ms. Tutwiler blamed Serbian militias and the Serb-led federal army, which opposed the republic's decision to become independent.

U.N. troops in Croatia, meanwhile, were sent Friday to take control of the eastern Slavonia region captured by Serb-led forces last year.

The region, which borders Serbia, was one of the focal points of the six-month war between Croatian security forces and Serb irregulars supported by the Yugoslav army. More than 10,000 people were killed until a ceasefire in January decreased violence.

Fighting in Sarajevo and much of Bosnia pits Slavic Muslims, who make up more than 40 per cent of Bosnia's 4.3 million people, against Serbs, about one-third. Many Croats, about 17 per cent of the state's population, have sided with the Muslims.

Since last June, Croatia, Slovenia and Macedonia as well as Bosnia have split from Yugoslavia, which now consists only of Serbia and Montenegro.

Singapore said Friday it recognized the independence of the former Yugoslav republics of Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Singapore welcomes the entry of these republics into the community of nations and looks towards developing friendly and mutually beneficial relations with them," the Foreign Ministry said.

6 CIS members agree on mutual defence

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (Agencies) — Russia and five other Commonwealth states agreed to a mutual defence system that pledges each nation to assist the others in case of an attack.

Five of the 11 member presidents skipped the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) summit that concluded Friday and sent lower-ranking officials to fill in.

The most prominent absentee was Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who has clashed with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the role of the Commonwealth, the future of the Black Sea Fleet and other issues.

Under the agreement, each signatory state will be prohibited from using force against another, as Armenia and Azerbaijan have done during their four-year battle over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Independent states with the right to create their own armed forces are now entering a defensive union," said Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev. "If there is aggression against a member-state of the (collective security) union, it will be considered an act of aggression against all member-states."

Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Armenia signed the collective security agreement. Not signing were Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Yeltsin said he regretted that only six states signed the agreement, but told reporters that Commonwealth leaders had achieved the "best result" so far.

"But considering that many of the leaders were (prime ministers) and not heads of state, they may not have the full authority to sign such a document of global importance. So, I think the number of signatures will increase," Mr. Yeltsin said in an auditorium at the massive Soviet-era Palace of Friendship of Peoples, site of the summit.

All 11 delegations agreed on a plan for implementing the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty to reduce non-nuclear forces.

The leaders also agreed to form a peacekeeping force, and to cut the size of the former Soviet army. In all, they signed at least six documents, after eliminating most of the original 20 proposals.

The agreement by six states to collectively guard external borders and internal boundaries was reached despite at least four of the 11 Commonwealth states' creation of separate armies outside the joint Commonwealth command.

It was a halfway step between dissolution of the former Soviet military and a rigid, centralized force.

"This means that the unified forces of the Commonwealth will remain," said the Commonwealth military commander, Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, an official observer at the summit.

Mr. Yeltsin's aide, Gennady Burbulis, said the pact was precipitated by recent events in the Central Asian region — a reference to instability in Tajikistan and in neighbouring Afghanistan.

"We had had this agreement in mind, but the leaders of the Asiatic republics were very interested and indeed spurred us on," Burbulis told journalists.

But the agreement immediately raises at least one painful question for the Commonwealth: Armenia and Azerbaijan are two members effectively at war over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenia is part of the defence agreement and entitled to support from other signatories. Azerbaijan remains outside.

The leaders attending approved a series of other documents on airspace, the former Soviet space programme, approval for establishing peacekeeping forces and a clearing system of payments between republics to help industry function better.

Mr. Yeltsin defended himself against allegations by conservatives in the Russian parliament that he had arrived for the summit drunk and was unfit to lead a nuclear power.

"There is a big campaign to discredit the president, reform and authority. This is a fight, a real fight, and we must not only fight but also win," he said.

The Nega News Agency said a large number of people were killed in ceasefire violations in South Ossetia, which has been struggling to break away from Georgia.

The ceasefire was agreed Wednesday during a visit to South Ossetia by Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

Ramos leads Philippine vote; police warn rebels

MANILA (R) — Cries of large-scale fraud, threats of "people power" protest and long delays in counting votes have opened up a dangerous period of uncertainty and confusion in the Philippine presidential elections, officials said.

Philippine Police Chief Cesar Nazareno Saturday warned he would crush any attempts to wreck the elections by extremist groups trying to destabilise the country during the counting process, which could take at least another week.

Troops have moved in to guard some counting centres where large crowds have gathered to protest against rigging following Monday's national and local elections.

Former first lady Imelda Marcos, charging systematic and widespread cheating in the election, said Saturday she would boycott all court proceedings against her.

Mrs. Marcos, who was one of seven contenders in the presidential poll, faces 50 cases of corruption and tax evasion. She has always said she was innocent.

With just 14.5 per cent of the vote counted, former defence chief Fidel Ramos Saturday maintained his slight lead over challenger Miriam Santiago in the battle to succeed President Corason Aquino.

But Mrs. Santiago said she was being cheated of victory and vowed to launch a series of mass "people power" protests across the country to denounce electoral fraud. A Ramos spokesman said she risked leading the country into anarchy and civil war.

The first rally will be held in her home town of Iloilo, 160 kilometres south of Manila. Her People's Reform Party has described it as a prayer rally against election fraud.

Asked if she was trying to tone it down following a warning by

the watchdog Commission On Elections (COMELEC), Mrs. Santiago told reporters: "No, it's an indignation rally."

Rumours that the rebel Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM), responsible for three of the six coup attempts against Mrs. Aquino, had offered to help Mrs. Santiago prompted reporters to ask Gen. Ramos if there was a risk of another push.

"Let's not talk about that. The chances are negligible if not zero. The authorities are committed to stop it. I think they are on the job," Gen. Ramos told reporters after visiting the officially-sanctioned counting centre.

He said the underground army rebels, led by cashiered Colonel Gregorio Honasan, were no longer able to mount a coup, but they could resort to terrorism.

"They have the capability. All you need is one guy in a car with some bombs," Gen. Ramos said.

Chief Nazareno said the police would "crush any attempt by extremist groups to disturb the sanctity of the election process to interfere with the peaceful transition of power."

He spoke after a series of bombs were found around Manila earlier in the week. Most were defused and four caused minor damage to posts carrying electric power lines. Police said they were planted by RAM.

With 3.4 million of the estimated 25 million votes counted, Gen. Ramos was leading with 818,563 against 750,957 for Mrs. Santiago, the acid-tongued ex-judge and former immigration commissioner who won widespread popularity for her crusade against corruption.

In third place, according to an officially-sanctioned "quick count" was Eduardo Cojuangco, a wealthy businessman and close ally of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

'N. Korea moving ahead with nuclear programme'

PEKING (R) — North Korea is moving ahead with a nuclear energy programme that could eventually produce weapons-grade plutonium, according to the first international team to tour the country's nuclear facilities.

Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told a news conference in Peking Saturday after visiting Pyongyang that North Korean officials had assured his team the nuclear programme was peaceful.

Its ultimate goal was to operate a fast-breeder reactor, which needs supplies of high-plutonium, the core of a nuclear weapon.

Mr. Blix said North Korea had produced a tiny amount of plutonium — not nearly enough to make a weapon — at a plant in Yonghyon, 90 kilometres north of Pyongyang.

The facility for processing spent fuel has become the focus of fears that North Korea, isolated and economically crippled since the collapse of communism in Europe, is on the brink of making nuclear arms.

Mr. Blix said the IAEA team had toured the large plant, apparently under construction and described as a laboratory for testing purposes.

"They say they want this for eventual use for a fast-breeder reactor," Mr. Blix said. "If it was complete, it would be termed a reprocessing plant."

Mr. Blix refused to speculate on whether North Korea was planning nuclear weapons.

He said he had been told Pyongyang had ordered equipment to complete the processing plant. There was no evidence that any equipment had been moved out before the visit.

Bush challenges political rivals to detail finances

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush is challenging his political rivals to make full public financial disclosure and set the tone by releasing data showing that he and first lady Barbara Bush have a net worth of \$3.7 million.

White House and campaign officials stressed that neither Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton nor Texas billionaire Ross Perot, Mr. Bush's principal rivals, have given a full accounting of their financial status.

Mr. Bush's aides believe financial disclosure statements issued by the president Thursday put added pressure on the two rivals, who have drawn virtually even with him in opinion polls assessing the race for the White House.

Mr. Bush's forms provided details that went well beyond the obligations imposed upon presidential candidates by the federal government by providing approximate figures.

Deputy White House Press Secretary Judy Smith, in releasing Mr. Bush's financial report, called for "all candidates to make full disclosure on their financial disclosure form" and to release their full income tax forms.

Mr. Perot, virtually certain to run as an independent for the White House, has said he would think about releasing details of his financial situation. Mr. Clinton, assured of the Democratic nomination, has made only a partial release of last year's tax returns.

Under federal law, Mr. Clinton is required to file a financial disclosure statement with the federal government by Friday.

Mr. Perot is not obligated to file forms until 30 days after he formally declares his candidacy.

The latest Times Mirror national poll shows that in a

three-way race, Mr. Bush would win an election only narrowly, with 33 per cent while Mr. Clinton and Mr. Perot would each get 30 per cent.

According to Mr. Bush's disclosure statement, last year he earned \$1,298,000 from a blind trust that was set up to handle his financial affairs after he became vice president in 1991. Under terms of the trust, he is not aware of its investments to avoid conflict of interest.

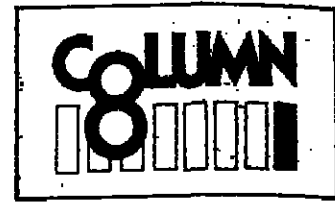
President Bush visited an inner-city area for the fifth time in a week Friday and heard a litany of pleas to bring jobs and hope rather than just tougher law enforcement.

Mr. Bush's main purpose on his Pittsburgh trip was raising \$300,000 for his reelection campaign at a \$1,000-a-plate fundraising luncheon on the campus of Duquesne University.

But afterward, in keeping with the new White House focus on urban needs since the riots that wracked Los Angeles two weeks ago, Mr. Bush drove to Pittsburgh's oldest black neighbourhood, the Hill, for a roundtable discussion with community leaders.

Several dozen demonstrators hooted and waved signs denouncing Mr. Bush's economic policies as his limousine pulled up to the Hill House, a social service agency.

The Hill, with a 45 per cent unemployment rate and rampant drug dealing, is one of 16 urban neighbourhoods targeted by Mr. Bush's "weed and seed" programme. In that effort, federal and local law enforcement officials crack down on gangs and drug dealers, and social service agencies increase help with jobs, education, housing and health services.



Britons fed up with their royals — survey

LONDON (R) — Britain's royal family is overpaid and out of touch, according to a new survey which says many Britons believe the royals role should be reviewed by parliament. Newspapers said the Gallup poll for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) showed the popularity of the royals, damaged by broken marriages, had reached an all-time low. The staunchly monarchist Daily Express called it "one of the most damning indictments ever on the house of Windsor."

The findings were broadcast in a BBC television documentary, "The Royal Soap Opera." Programme makers said the poll showed most people believed too many members of the royal family got state money and even Queen Elizabeth was paid too much. Among those polled, 62 per cent said the divorce of Princess Anne, the queen's only daughter, and the separation of her second son, the Duke of York and his wife, had damaged the royals. Just over half of Britons, 51 per cent — did not think the royals provided a good example of family life, by a slim margin of 44 per cent of 42, Britons wanted the role of the monarchy to be subject to a parliamentary review.

Man punches sharks to survive

CAIRNS, Australia (AP) — A fisherman said Saturday he survived 10 hours in shark-filled water and swam 15 kilometres after falling into the Coral Sea from a small cargo ship. Kelly Rafferty, 38, had already reached shore when a Queensland State Emergency Service crew found him near the mouth of a creek renowned for crocodiles. He was suffering from hypothermia but was taken to hospital in good condition. "I slipped a 12-foot (3.6-metre) tiger shark out of my foot and punched a four-foot (1.2-metre) java shark on the way to shore," said Mr. Rafferty. Senior Police Constable Gary Brown said Mr. Rafferty had fallen from the boat about 11 p.m. Thursday. Crew members contacted police a short time later.

Critics hail Italian film about abused children

CANNES, France (R) — Director Gianni Amelio won tumultuous applause at Cannes Friday for his "Il Ladro Di Bambini" (The Stolen Children), a poetic film showing the dark, cold side of modern Italy. The film centres on the relationship between an 11-year-old girl prostituted by her mother, her nine-year-old brother and a young policeman charged with taking them into care. Belying the tourist cliché of a sunny Italy filled with affectionate, happy families, it shows Italy as a country of lost values, poverty and cold bureaucracy. In competition for Cannes' top prize — the Golden Palm — it has been compared to the great postwar Italian films of Antonioni and De Sica for its sensitivity and long, lingering shots of the characters and their surroundings.

Judge pulls gun on unruly defendant

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) — A judge waved a gun after an outburst by an unruly defendant and invited the man to "take your best shot." Defending his actions Friday, the judge said the recession had prompted anger at authorities. Broward Circuit Judge J. Leonard Fleet brandished the gun in a crowded courtroom during a probation hearing for Gordon Mayette, who had violated probation. Mr. Mayette, 43, spoke out of turn and when Fleet criticised the outburst, he muttered to a bailiff: "If I had a gun, I'd kill that judge."

Judge Fleet, incensed, pulled out a .38-caliber revolver. "There's one bullet in the cylinder. Do you want to take your best shot? If you're going to take a shot, you better score, because I don't miss," Judge Fleet said. Actually, the gun wasn't loaded. Judge Fleet said. He said his method was "unusual" and would be criticised. "Perhaps it would have been more discreet had I devised some other method to get my message across to those who so frequently show disrespect for law and order," the judge said. He said his method worked. Mr. Mayette and other prisoners in the courtroom acted more respectfully after the incident.

De Klerk, Mandela try to save peace process

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African peace talks failed Saturday to break a deadlock over how to forge a democratic constitution despite the personal intervention of President F.W. De Klerk and black leader Nelson Mandela.

But they said all was not lost and ordered their delegations to streamline the reform process and get it back on track to form a multi-racial transitional government to lead the country from apartheid to democracy.

The organising committee of the second summit of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA II) later announced it was examining all working group agreements to speed up the peace process.

The committee added it would call another meeting of the 19 participating groups "as a matter of urgency."

Mr. De Klerk and Mr. Mandel

la in late night talks Friday did not solve the thorny issue of power in an interim parliament that will draw up a constitution. But they agreed work just continue with urgency to break the stalemate between their parties, the leading white and black forces in the country.

Mr. Mandela, president of the African National Congress (ANC), made an impassioned plea at the convention for speed in setting up a multi-racial interim government.

He told all 19 delegations to agree that the current apartheid-based parliament must pass laws creating a transitional administration by the time it adjourns, normally in late June. There was no dissent.

Turning to Mr. De Klerk, seated impassively a few feet away from the rostrum, he said: "The time has come that you truly

cross the rubicon. You must understand clearly that the days of white minority domination are over."

His remark went to the heart of the dispute between the ANC and Mr. De Klerk's ruling National Party (NP) on the powers of an upper house of parliament — in which minorities would have a disproportionate say — over a popularly-elected lower chamber.

The ANC accuses the government of trying to perpetuate white supremacy with percentage blocking mechanisms and veto powers for minorities.

In his speech, Mr. De Klerk strongly denied the government continued to promote white supremacy over 27 million blacks who outnumber the five-to-one. "It's simply not true," he said. "When we say the book of apartheid is now closed we mean it."

He said the government sought only to introduce a system of checks and balances "in the spirit of the American founding fathers" to ensure no majority could misuse its power.

Mr. De Klerk later said in an answer to a question at a news conference: "There is not a position of full trust between the NP and the ANC and likewise there is not full trust between leaders. But as we succeed, (in the talks) trust will grow."

Mandela called on the assembly to agree on several other major issues, which delegates did without argument.

These included a constitution-making body elected through universal franchise and proportional representation candidates elected on national and regional lists and independently supervised and internationally monitored elections.

Azeri opposition maintains grip on power

BAKU, Azerbaijan (R) — Opposition forces moved quickly to consolidate their grip on power in Azerbaijan Saturday, one day after storming parliament and sweeping President Ayaz Muttalibov from power.

The Azeri Popular Front reconvened the National Council, or inner parliament, in the early hours of the morning and immediately ruled as illegal the full parliament's decision Thursday returning Mr. Muttalibov to power.

Popular Front officials said presidential elections set for June 7,

which the full parliament had annulled, would go ahead as originally planned.

"We will not allow the destruction of democracy. Therefore we have restored the presidential elections," Front member Tofik Gazimov told Reuters during a break in the council meeting, which started at 3.00 a.m.

He said the National Council would call an extraordinary session of parliament as soon as possible, probably Sunday or Monday, so it could formally reverse the decisions it took on Thursday returning Mr. Muttalibov to power.

But senior Front member Isa Gambarov said only a full session of parliament could accept Mr. Mamedov's resignation.

The parliament had reinstated ex-Communist Party chief Muttalibov, 53, after Shusha, the last major Azeri stronghold in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, fell to Armenian guerrillas last week.

Front leaders said Mr. Muttalibov's removal cleared the way for new military efforts in the enclave, populated mostly by Armenians but ruled by Azerbaijan since 1923.

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. names new envoy to U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Ambassador Edward Perkins, a U.S. career diplomat with extensive experience in Africa and in management posts, presented his credentials Thursday as his country's new U.N. representative. He succeeds Thomas Pickering, who has represented the United States at the world body since March 1989 and has been appointed ambassador to India. Perkins, 63, has been director-general of the U.S. Foreign Service and director of personnel since 1989. He was ambassador to South Africa from 1986 to 1989 and before that headed the U.S. embassy in Liberia.

Russian arms dump blaze put out

MOSCOW (R) — Firefighters have put out a blaze which roared through a Vladivostok ammunition depot, forcing 6,000 people to evacuate nearby homes, but shells were still exploding Saturday, ITAR-TASS News Agency said. "According to the Pacific Fleet Press Centre, the fire at the arsenal has been put out. Isolated explosions are still being observed," the agency said. It said people who had to quit their homes on the outskirts of the Russian Far East port city after the fire broke out on Thursday were returning home. At its height the fire sent debris from exploding shells over a radius of one kilometre as nine of 36 depots on the huge site burned.

Marlene Dietrich buried in Berlin

BERLIN (AP) — Marlene Dietrich, the legendary film star, was buried in her native Berlin Saturday. Leading the procession of mourners into the Friedenau Cemetery was the late actress' daughter, Maria Riva. Dietrich died in Paris on May 6 at age 90. About 1,000 fans stood outside the cemetery and there was repeated applause on the arrival of the casket covered with bright flowers. "Dear Marlene, welcome home," actor Maximilian

Schell said during brief remarks at graveside. "I think you liked that applause," Schell started with Dietrich in the 1960 movie *Judgment At Nuremberg*, and the two became close friends. In the 1980s, Schell did an acclaimed documentary on Dietrich's life that included interviews with her but never showed her aged face.

Swiss vote on whether to join IMF

GENEVA (R) — The Swiss began voting Saturday on whether to join the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in a vote that could show if they want to join in European unity later. The country's proud and independent people have a long history of trying to safeguard their neutrality by rejecting government moves to join international bodies. This weekend's referendum is the first big chance since the end of the cold war to decide either to press on with this policy or move towards closer integration with the rest of the world. Swiss voters have the power to block government moves and just six years ago they voted decisively against joining the United Nations. Early next year they will have to vote on whether to join the 19-nation European Economic area — a huge new free-trade area joining the European Community (EC) with the European Free Trade Association.

Kim Dae-Jun enters presidential race

SEOUL (R) — Veteran South Korean opposition politician Kim Dae-Jun officially declared Saturday he will seek the Democratic Party nomination for presidential elections later this year. President Roh Tae-Woo's five year term ends next February and elections are due before the end of the year. "The people want the end of the 30-year military-oriented rule. A change of regime is inevitable," Mr. Kim told a cheering 600-strong crowd at a Democratic Party (DP) rally in southern Seoul. Mr. Kim, 76, a former dissident who has survived jail terms and attempts on his life in his battle for greater democracy, is virtually certain to win his party's endorsement, political analysts said.